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THE

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Engraved by Charles Heath from a Drawing by W.H. Brooke.

Time's Telescope

FOR

1824;

97958

OR,

A Complete Guide to the Almanack:

CONTAINING AN EXPLANATION

OF

Saints' Days and Holidays;

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF BRITISH HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES,
NOTICES OF OBSOLETE RITES AND CUSTOMS,
SKETCHES OF COMPARATIVE CHRONOLOGY,

AND

CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY.

Astronomical Occurrences

IN EVERY MONTH;

COMPRISING REMARKS ON THE PHENOMENA OF THE CELESTIAL BODIES,
with
REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS:

AND

THE NATURALIST'S DIARY;

EXPLAINING THE VARIOUS
APPEARANCES IN THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE KINGDOMS.

To which are prefixed

OUTLINES OF HISTORICAL AND PHYSICAL

Geography;

AND

An Introductory Poem on Flowers

By BERNARD BARTON.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY.

London:
PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, JONES, AND C
Paternoster Row.

1824.

97958

DESCRIPTION *of the* FRONTISPIECE.

The FRONTISPIECE *to our present Volume is engraved by Mr.* CHARLES HEATH, *from a Drawing by Mr.* W. H. BROOKE, *the composition of which reflects great credit on this Gentleman. It presents to our view a Medallion Portrait of* CAPTAIN PARRY *(of whom a memoir is given in pp. xlii-xlvi), supported by four figures emblematic of the four quarters of the globe, who are supposed to be in the act of raising the veil of concealment which has so long hung over the fate of this intrepid navigator; and whose return, in good health, has dispelled all our anxious fears respecting him; while the rays of light, beaming from behind the portrait, are seen to disperse those clouds of ignorance with which the Polar Regions have been so long enveloped.—The Vignette represents His Majesty's Ships* Hecla *and* Griper *in Winter Harbour, ice-bound and snow-surrounded: in this melancholy situation, not an object was to be seen on which the eye could long rest with pleasure;—it was the death-like stilness of the most dreary desolation, and the almost total absence of animated existence—a scene which will convey to the Reader some idea of the noble endurance of British seamen, during their weary sojourn in this inhospitable, bleak, and barren clime.*

☞ *A limited number of* PROOF IMPRESSIONS *of the* FRONTISPIECE *has been taken off on Quarto Paper, which will serve as a Frontispiece to Captain Parry's Voyage, or for Framing.*

'If the times are not better, still it must be owned that their Telescope is improving annually. Indeed, we think this little work deserves peculiar credit for its constant variety, whilst still preserving the original plan on which it started.—*New Monthly Magazine, December* 1822.

'We have now had the gratification of approving the design and execution of this useful annual work for ten succeeding years; and can safely assert that the present volume is inferior to none of its predecessors. Novelty has been so studiously considered, that each volume is almost entirely a new work. The poetical selections are numerous and judiciously introduced.'—*Gentleman's Magazine, December* 1822.

'We are acquainted with no annual work which has united so many suffrages in its favour as Time's Telescope. The present publication does not derogate from the character of its predecessors, but is indeed an agreeable and instructive miscellany.'—*Literary Gazette, December* 7, 1822.

'This ingenious work is really worthy of public attention.'—*John Bull, December* 27, 1822.

'This publication will convey, to young persons of intelligence and education, much entertaining and useful information, without that corrupting admixture of unsound principles, or improper allusions, by which so large a portion of the current literature of our times is unhappily debased.'—*Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, Jan.* 1823.

'This is an entertaining and instructive annual work.'—*Courier, December* 24, 1822.

'We have often had occasion to notice the periodical appearance of this useful work: in the variety and amusing quality of its contents, we know few works which can bear a comparison with Time's Telescope. We notice, with particular commendation, the poetical taste of the Editor, who has selected from the fugitive verses of the day many very beautiful and interesting specimens. The scientific department is got up with the same fidelity and cleverness which distinguished the former numbers of Time's Telescope.'—*Monthly Magazine, Jan.* 1823.

'This is a very amusing book, and full of information on a variety of common-place topics, which people have in their mouths every day, and yet contrive to be profoundly ignorant of to the latest hour of their existence. History, antiquities, obsolete rites, biography, and a naturalist's diary, are only the prominent features of the work, which is as varied as it is amusing.'—*Museum, June* 7, 1823.

'The sustained excellence and improving reputation of this agreeable and highly useful series, afford a gratifying illustration of the extent, depth, and richness, of the resources of English literature; and of the sure reward which attends the exercise of industry and judgment in exploring them. The present volume fully supports the character of its predecessors; and saying this, we are not aware that we could give it a higher praise.'—*St. James's Chronicle, December* 10, 1822.

'Of all the annual publications of the present day, numerous as they are, there is not one that we long so much to see as Time's Telescope; for there is none, from which, in times past, we have derived greater pleasure and profit. Its reputation is now so fully established, that it stands in no need of any recommendation from us, or it should certainly have it. We scarcely know a work in which the *utile* and the *dulce* are more happily blended.'—*New Evangelical Magazine, December* 1822.

'This is a well-conducted annual work.'—*Morning Post, December* 19, 1822.

'Dr. Herschel, with his gigantic telescope of forty feet, could only examine the heavens, and trace the planetary orbs in their course; the author of Time's Telescope does much more, for he not only searches the starry heavens with microscopic ken, but spreads the whole earth before us, and penetrates to 'the waters under the earth.' Indeed, he unfolds the whole book of nature, and revels in its choicest productions. Time's Telescope has now attained a standing of ten years, during which time it has progressively increased in merit and reputation, presenting the same interesting variety, the same novelty, and the same good taste which first distinguished it. In short, it is a book which no person who wishes for amusement or information on a variety of subjects should be without.'—*Literary Chronicle, December* 7, 1822.

'This is an entertaining and instructive annual work.'—*Bell's Weekly Messenger, December* 29, 1823.

'Time's Telescope has certainly been furnished this year with an additional number of lenses, bright, clear, and achromatic; so that we are enabled to view, with distinctness and pleasure, the various objects that are set before us. Of the *natural pictures* here held up to view we can scarcely speak in too warm terms of commendation. The Introduction on the habits, economy, and uses of British Insects, is original and amusing; and the description of Astronomical Instruments is concise and clear. With the Ode to Time, by Mr. Barton, we have been greatly pleased, and indeed the whole volume is one which we can cordially recommend. The Editor is entitled to the highest praise for his laborious collections in poetry, biography, and the facts of natural history; the last is, at all times, a pleasing and delightful study, and which cannot be too much pressed upon the attention of youth. In a word, this is the best volume of Time's Telescope which has yet appeared.'—*London Journal of Arts, December* 1822.

'We have repeatedly recommended this work to our readers, who have a taste for scientific studies. The present volume contains a vast variety of interesting matter.'—*Supplement to Evangelical Magazine for* 1822.

'For the tenth time we meet this truly interesting compilation, which seems to improve with every recurring year, and may be justly said to afford a high intellectual treat to all who possess a love for literature and science. We know not a volume, indeed, even in the present productive state of the Periodical Press, which is

so well calculated as this, to excite in the youthful and ingenuous mind a vivid and durable impression of the value of time, and of the beauty, sublimity, and utility of the mighty works of God. It is evidently the production of a man of great ingenuity and research; for he has contrived, notwithstanding an apparent necessity for repetition in some of the details, to give to each succeeding volume, and through every department of its contents, the charm of variety, and the impress of novelty; a result which he has been enabled to obtain through a very happy use of the almost inexhaustible treasures which are to be found in the mines of Philosophy and Natural History, in the delightful stores of Biography and Literary Anecdote, and in the curious *minutiæ* of Manners, Customs, and Superstitions. With these he has mingled copious and judiciously selected illustrations from our best poets, living as well as dead; a feature in the work which stamps it with a lively and endearing interest, and which appears, indeed, in the volume before us, with singular attractions for our Suffolk readers, as it includes some highly finished effusions from the moral pen of one who resides amongst them (Mr. B. Barton), and who, whether regarded as a poet or a man, may be correctly said to reflect honour, not only on the sect to which he more peculiarly belongs, but on the country which has given him birth.'—*Suffolk Chronicle, December* 14, 1822.

'This work blends instruction with amusement, and presents a compilation of topics extremely well adapted to excite its younger readers to further research, and to create in them a desire of scientific and useful knowledge: it will amply repay a careful perusal.'—*Monthly Censor, March* 1823.

'The season which brings to us almanacks, souvenirs, diaries, and all the other thousand red and blue-vested remembrancers of Time, is again come round, and has duly brought to us one amongst those remembrancers, which we value far beyond its fellows, because it is of a more intellectual nature—we mean Time's Telescope. This work, which has now reached a tenth volume, does not, like many works which have been long continued, exhibit any signs of decay. On the contrary, it is carefully edited, and has received some improvements. In such a volume as this, where the same ground must be yearly travelled over again, it is no small merit to have avoided a wearisome sameness, and to have introduced so much of novelty. The selections, whether of prose or of poetry, are made with judgment, and combine utility with amusement.'—*Supplement to Arliss's Pocket Magazine, December* 1822.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1822.

'To look back with advantage, and forward with pleasure, is the sum and substance of human happiness! Fortunate is he who can do so; and still more fortunate is he who has this little work to assist him in his retrospect and prospect, thereby giving an additional value to the time present. Whatever his pursuit, however multifarious his researches, he cannot fail of finding here both information and amusement, united to a degree of novelty and variety by no means to be expected in an annual publication of this kind. In this

selection, good taste is evident; recapitulation has been avoided as far as possible, without omitting necessary information; whilst the author, without seeming to infringe in the slightest degree upon its contemporary utility, has with ingenious propriety rendered it specifically adapted to its place in the regular series of which it forms the ninth volume.'—*New Monthly Magazine, Jan.* 1822.

'With the return of this period of the year, we have to notice the recurring volume of Time's Telescope for the year 1822; for the character of which it might be sufficient to refer to our remarks on the previous volumes. We find the same industry and ingenuity displayed in the selection of anecdotes and facts appropriate to particular days, and the same good taste in the choice of the poetical pieces, thickly interspersed through the pages. It is unnecessary to say more of a work which has now passed several times under our notice, and whose merits are so fully substantiated as to leave the critic no further duty to perform.'—*Monthly Magazine, Jan.* 1822.

'We should have called this work *Time's Kaleidoscope* instead of Time's Telescope, for at every turn of a page it presents the reader with a new and agreeable combination of form, colour, and material. But, while it resembles, it also surpasses that curious instrument, inasmuch as its express object and tendency is to blend instruction with amusement, and to make the one as attractive as the other. We observe that the pages of this useful miscellany are diligently enriched from the leading publications of the times, which are referred to in a manner honourable to the parties quoting them, and valuable to readers who may wish additional information on the subjects thus brought to their notice. Taken altogether, Time's Telescope is one of the best productions to be put into the hands of youth which our teeming press sends forth. It leads by easy roads to improving studies; it is exceedingly various; it is full of hints for thinking, and it is honest and unprejudiced. From the child of five years of age to the mature of fifty, it will afford both entertainment and intelligence.'—*Literary Gazette, Dec.* 1, 1821.

'When so many attempts are made to corrupt the minds of the rising generation, through the medium of elementary books of instruction, it affords us pleasure to be able to recommend an attractive work, which is entirely free from the taint of bad principles. Time's Telescope is an agreeable miscellany, worthy of the attention of all classes of readers, but particularly of intelligent young persons, to whom it will convey much useful and entertaining information on the various subjects mentioned in its title. The whole is interspersed with numerous anecdotes, antiquarian references, historical facts, and poetical selections; admirably calculated to excite a taste for knowledge, and to render its acquisition easy and agreeable. We have looked through the volume, and are happy to find that, in a literary *melange* of so much extent and variety, there is so little to which persons of serious religion can object, and so much which they will cordially applaud.'—*Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, January* 1822, *No.* 1, *Vol.* 1, *N. S.*

'The style of this book is uniformly neat and appropriate. The information which the Editor gives on each subject is correct; it is

ample, without being prolix; and it is occasionally enlivened by good extracts from our best poets. One thing more must be said of Time's Telescope,—it is a *safe* book; it may be put into the hands of youth, without the fear of its exciting an improper idea; and this is a quality of which the value must be felt by every parent and preceptor.'—*Arliss's Pocket Magazine, Dec.* 1821.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1821.

'Time flies so rapidly, that a *Telescope* becomes necessary to look at him when past, and is not less amusing to examine him as he approaches. *Time* also is that which we can never *reform*, but still we may improve it: and if it be a mark of wisdom to make the most of our time, it must be allowed that the Editor of the work before us has equally succeeded; for he has not only improved the past to make it useful for the present, but has also made the most of the future, by showing that *almost every day in the year is good for something.* He who wishes to know why one day is more remarkable than another? Why he must eat mince-pies at Christmas, or Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Why he must eat goose at Michaelmas, or be made a goose of on All-Fools-Day?—he who wishes to turn his Telescope on human events, or on the Heavens;—he who wishes to be directed, agreeably to the season, in his observations of nature, enlivened and illustrated by apt quotations from our best poets; or who, in short, wishes to know what time *was* and *will* be, cannot fail of gratifying his curiosity by a reference to this useful little parlour-window book. It has been before the public for some years, and is now considerably improved in arrangement, as well as in quantity; so that those possessed of former volumes will find that the present is far from being a twice-told tale: even if it were only for the very popular mode in which the interesting subject of Ornithology is treated, rendering it perfectly intelligible to youthful capacities, whilst older readers may find much that they have forgotten. In short, we wish it, and our readers, a happy new year!—*Sun, December* 20, 1820.

'To young persons, either in town or country, this volume will be very acceptable, as it will furnish them, in one case, with much novel and amusing instruction; and in the other, will prove an agreeable guide to many of those pursuits which are the peculiar charm of a country residence. We know not any publication of a similar nature in which there is a better union of pleasure and amusement.'—*Monthly Magazine, January and July* 1821.

'Time's Telescope blends something of the character which belongs to the Literary Pocket Book with that of a general Almanack; but at the same time possessing features different from either of these and peculiar to itself, and being altogether much more useful and compendious than both.'—*Baldwin's London Mag., Feb.* 1821.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1820.

'Time, not the world's Time, with wings besprinkled with cards, dice, and "at homes,"—but the Time of the Astronomer, the Naturalist, and the Historian, again opens his annual *Magazin des No-*

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1820.

veautés; and we can safely assure those who may wish to become purchasers, that all the articles in this literary bazaar are well selected, and of the first quality. This pleasing volume is well adapted for Schools, either as a class-book, or the reward of merit.' —*Gentleman's Magazine, Dec.* 1819.

'*We hail with pleasure* the annual re-appearance of Time's Telescope, which presents, in an easy, popular style, with judicious arrangement, clear and copious illustrations of almost every day in the Calendar, not only in regard to Saints' Days and Holidays, but also memorable events of the earliest times down to the passing year. The Naturalist's Diary for each month is interesting to all classes, for the specific information it contains, as well as for the pleasing view it affords of God's Providence at all seasons. He who takes up this little volume must be wiser, and perhaps *better*, before he lays it down.'—*Sun, Jan.* 18, 1820.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1819.

'While this annual companion and guide retains the respectable character which now belongs to it, no parlour window, school room, or private study, can well dispense with its presence.'—*New Monthly Magazine, Feb.* 1819.

'Time's Telescope presents us with a new view of the ensuing year. To *give variety to an almanack has long* been considered as impossible; yet this ingenious little work, by means of recent or passing events, by an appropriate new selection of Poetical Illustrations, and by a new Introduction, offers an amusing novelty, without departure from its original plan.'—*Literary Gazette, Dec.* 12, 1818.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1818.

'We cordially recommend this volume to the attention of persons of every age and taste, but particularly to the inquiring youth of both sexes.'—*Antijacobin Review for December* 1817.

'Time's Telescope for 1818 deserves the same praise, and is entitled to the same support and encouragement, which the former volumes have received from the public.'—*British Critic for December* 1817.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1817.

'We have already noticed the preceding volume of this amusing and instructive performance; and we have now little to add to or deduct from the encomiums which we deemed it our duty to pass on the contents of that part; the plan being still the same, and the execution and arrangement as nearly as possible on the same model. We shall not consider it as requisite for us to continue our report of this annual publication.'—*Monthly Review for August* 1817.

'There is in this volume an excellent Introduction to the "Principles of Zoology," quite *studded* with poetical citations; and a copious index is added to the whole series. In point of quantity and quality, indeed, the present is fully equal, if not superior, to any of the preceding volumes; and our readers will not readily find a more attractive "*New Year's Present*" for their juvenile friends, which,

Notice of Time's Telescope for 1817.

while it acquaints them with the pleasing wonders of Nature, teaches them, at the same time, that all these "are but the varied God."—*Gentleman's Magazine for December* 1816.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1816.

'Time's Telescope is compiled with skill and judgment, and contains much desirable miscellaneous information, and many interesting and instructive sketches, particularly on some parts of Natural History. We recommend this work to the attention of our juvenile readers, who will find it an agreeable and instructive companion.'—*Monthly Review for November* 1816.

'We are glad to see that the Editors of this useful work find encouragement to continue it annually, and that the articles it contains increase in their interest.'—*Gentleman's Magazine for August* 1816.

'A very entertaining and useful compendium of multifarious lore.'—*Eclectic Review for January* 1817.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1815.

'We never met with a compilation better calculated for the use of families, and to serve as a portable companion for young persons, than this elegant little volume, which abounds with valuable information on subjects of general interest, and with a pleasing variety of rational entertainment. The book is written in a popular style, the articles are selected with great judgment from the best authorities; and while the scientific illustrations tend to quicken curiosity, the reflections interspersed with the extracts, occasionally given from the most charming of our poets, will increase the delight afforded by contemplating the works of nature, and raise the mind to a devout admiration of the Divine Author.'—*New Monthly Magazine, Jan.* 1815.

'The work before us supplies accurate, though popular, instruction on a variety of topics. It is written in a correct and tasteful style, enlivened by many exquisite quotations from the poets of the day; and is interspersed with such reflections as flow naturally from the conviction that knowledge, to be extensively beneficial, either to its possessor or to others, must be purified by religion, manifested in benevolence, and consecrated to God.'—*Eclectic Review for February* 1815.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1814.

'This work contains a great variety of very useful information, conveyed in a most pleasing manner. We cannot hesitate to pronounce that it will be popular. It deserves to be so; and it has too many attractions, for every kind of taste, to be overlooked. It will form a delightful as well as instructive present for young persons at Christmas.'—*British Critic for December* 1813.

'We cheerfully give to Time's Telescope our warmest recommendation as a pleasing and *safe* book for the rising generation.'—*Eclectic Review for February* 1814.

Advertisement.

AT a time when periodical literature assumes an importance, and exercises a degree of influence upon the Reading World unknown to our ancestors, it is quite obvious that the office of administering to the intellectual taste becomes daily a task of increased difficulty and responsibility.

Inspired by the recollection of recent indulgence, and animated by a growing success far beyond his expectations, the Editor presents his Eleventh *Volume to his Readers with sentiments of respectful confidence. Without pretending to* originality, *he yet hopes to make good his claim to the credit of considerable* novelty, *and, above all,* endless variety, *in the selection of his materials; he trusts that his humble page is not seldom enriched and dignified by the 'golden sentiments' which he has selected, and that, bee-like, he has not ranged through the blossomed groves in vain; 'freely extracting every sweet he found.'*

In reference to the novelties *of the present volume, it may be observed, that the departments of* Antiquities *and* Biography *will be found to exhibit much curious and entertaining anecdote: while the* Astronomical Occurrences, *enlivened by numerous poetical citations, will present some interesting 'Reflections on the Starry Heavens:' and the notices of* Natural History *cannot fail to offer to the lovers of that delightful study, numerous facts illustrative of a science, of which it may be said,* par excellence, *that it tends to engender the most rational spirit of investigation, feeds the noblest enthusiasm of our nature, and kindles the flame of religion in our hearts.*

The Introductory Essay on Physical *and* Historical Geography, *which will, the Editor trusts, prove a valuable incitement to the study of this popular and useful science, is from the pen of* Dr. Myers, *of* Blackheath, *who has, for some years past, contributed the* astronomical *portion of this work.*

Among the new and attractive features of the present Telescope, the Editor cannot omit to notice the 'Flower-piece by Bernard Barton,' *and the other* poetical *ornaments with which it is enwreathed. From the wild and simple flowers of poesy,* 'plucked as beseemed his wayward fancy,'—*now cropping the odorous and blushing rose—and now weaving the sad rue's intermingled leaves with gayer flowers, he has formed a garland of varied beauty, which, though last, is not the least* 'in his dear love:'—*disdain not then, Reader, the hand that transfers to a more favoured spot, flowers that, perchance, once graced a parterre of their own, in their original freshness, and which now, contrasted with floscules of more recent culture, may not be deemed unworthy to be offered at the shrine of memory.*

London,
Nov. 20, 1823.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our Correspondents in different parts of the United Kingdom have our best thanks for their interesting communications; and we solicit a continuance of their favours. N.B. *Observations on the appearances of Nature in every month, accounts of obsolete or existing customs, and sketches of neglected or contemporary biography, will be always acceptable: these should be addressed to the Editor, to the care of Messrs.* Sherwood and Co. Paternoster Row, London; *and transmitted before the 1st of July,* 1824.

FLOWERS;

An Introductory Poem

FOR THE ELEVENTH VOLUME OF TIME'S TELESCOPE,

BY BERNARD BARTON.

I.

HE who delights to trace, with serious thought,
In all he sees the noiseless steps of TIME,
Shall find the outward forms of Nature fraught
With ample food for many a lofty rhyme;
Or should he fear such dazzling heights to climb,
And love to tread a less aspiring way,—
Leaving untouch'd the awful and sublime,
And seeking humbler objects to pourtray,
May find in such the theme of many a pleasing Lay.

II.

What though the glorious Sun, enthron'd on high,
May more conspicuously this lesson teach;
Or Moon and Stars, which gem the midnight sky,
A yet more touching homily may preach,
As Day to Day still utters ceaseless speech,
And Night to Night yet added knowledge shows,—
Far lowlier objects to the heart may reach,
And wisdom purest precepts may disclose,
Cull'd from *The Lily*'s bloom, or gather'd from *The Rose!*

III.

Yes—You, delightful handy-works of HIM
Who arch'd the Heavens, and spann'd this solid earth,
Before whose glory day's proud light is dim,
And Art's achievements, if not food for mirth,
Display at best its barrenness and dearth,—
You, too, instruct us, and with "line on line,
Precept on precept," show us by your birth,
Your bud, your blossoming, and your decline,
TIME'S never-ceasing flight, and tell us truths divine.

IV.

You, as the changing Seasons roll along,
Still wait on each, and added beauties lend:—
Around the smiling *Spring* a lovely throng
With eager rivalry her steps attend;—
Others with *Summer's* brighter glories blend;—
Some grace mild *Autumn's* more majestic mien;—
While some few ling'ring blooms the brow befriend
Of hoary *Winter*, and with grace serene
Enwreathe the king of storms with Mercy's gentler sheen.

V.

Nor do ye, while ye thus declare the flight
Of Times and Seasons, want yet deeper lore;—
In you, with eager and unsated sight,
The gentle Moralist may such explore:—
Even Religion's voice has heretofore
Pointed a moral, and adorn'd a tale
By illustration from your ample store;—
Nor could such touching illustration fail,
When thus THE SAVIOUR preach'd, his text the lilies pale.

VI.

"Consider ye the *Lilies* of the field,
"Which neither toil nor spin,—not regal pride,
"In all its plenitude of pomp reveal'd,
"Could hope to charm, their beauties plac'd beside!
"If heavenly goodness thus for them provide,
"Which bloom to-day, and wither on the morrow,—
"Shall not your wants be from your GOD supplied,
"Without your vain anxiety and sorrow?—
"Oh ye of little faith! from *these* a lesson borrow!"

VII.

Our heavenly Father knoweth that we need
Raiment and food; *nor will he* fail to bless
With all we want—if we, in thought and deed,
Seek first *his* kingdom, and *his* righteousness;—
His power is ample, and his love no less;
Be faith in HIM with holy hope combin'd,
Then shall no mournful fears our minds distress,
For what may with the morrow be assign'd;—
Sufficient for the day its evil all must find.

VIII.

If such the soothing precepts taught from You,
Beautiful Blossoms! well may ye appear
As silent preachers in The Christian's view;
And while ye decorate the changeful year,
Imbued with power the mourner's heart to cheer,—
Not gratifying merely outward sense
By tints and odours,—but dispelling fear,
Awak'ning hope, by your intelligence,
And strengthening humble faith in GOD's omnipotence!

IX.

Come forth, then, lovely heralds of the Spring!
Leave at your Maker's call your earthly bed,
At his behest your grateful tribute bring
To light and life, from darkness and the dead!
Thou, timid *Snow-drop*, lift thy lowly head;
Crocus, and *Primrose*, show your varied dye;
Violets, your ceaseless odours round you shed,
Yourselves the while retiring from the eye,
Yet loading with your sweets each breeze that passes by.

X.

And You,—in gay variety that grace,
In later months, with beauty the parterre,
"Making a sunshine in the shady place,"
As Una and her milk-white Lamb were there;—
Arise! Arise! and in your turns declare
The power of Him who has not only made
The depth of Ocean, and the heights of Air,
And Earth's magnificence,—but has display'd
In you that power and skill with beauty's charms array'd.

XI.

Uplift, proud *Sun-flower*, to thy favourite Orb
That disk whereon his brightness loves to dwell;
And, as thou seem'st his radiance to absorb,
Proclaim thyself The Garden's Sentinel:—
And thou too, gentle, modest *Heather-bell*,
Gladden thy lonely birth-place:—*Jasmines*, spread
Your star-like blossoms, fragrant to the smell;—
You *Evening Primroses*, when day has fled,
Open your pallid flowers, by dews and moon-light fed.

XII.

And where my favourite Abbey [1] rears on high
Its crumbling ruins, on their loftiest crest
Ye *Wall-flowers*, shed your tints of golden dye,
On which the morning sunbeams love to rest,—
On which, when glory fills the glowing west,
The parting splendours of the day's decline,
With fascination to the heart address'd,
So tenderly and beautifully shine,
As if reluctant still to leave that hoary shrine.

XIII.

Convolvulus,—expand thy cup-like flower,
Graceful in form, and beautiful in hue;—
Clematis, wreathe afresh thy Garden bower;—
Ye loftier *Lilies*, bath'd in morning's dew,
Of purity and innocence renew
Each lovely thought;—and ye, whose lowlier pride
In sweet seclusion seems to shrink from view,—
You of *The Valley* nam'd, no longer hide
Your blossoms meet to twine the brow of purest Bride.

XIV.

And Thou, so rich in gentle names, appealing
To hearts that own our Nature's common lot;
Thou styl'd by sportive Fancy's better feeling
"*A Thought*,"—"*The Heart's ease*," or "*Forget me not*,"
Who deck'st alike the Peasant's garden-plot,
And Castle's proud parterre;—with humble joy
Proclaim afresh by castle, and by cot,
Hopes which bught not, like things of time, to cloy,
And feelings Time itself shall deepen—not destroy!

[1] Leiston Abbey, in Suffolk.

XV.

Fruitless, and endless were the task, I ween,
With ev'ry Flower to grace my votive Lay;—
And unto Thee, their long-acknowledg'd QUEEN,
Fairest, and loveliest! and thy gentle sway,
Beautiful *Rose*, my homage I must pay,—
For how can Minstrel leave thy charms unsung,
Whose meek supremacy has been alway
Confess'd in many a clime, and many a tongue,
And in whose praise the harp of many a Bard has rung?

XVI.

Mine is unworthy such a lovely theme;—
Yet could I borrow of that tuneful Bird[1]
Who sings thy praises by the *moon's* pale beam,
As Fancy's graceful legends have averr'd,
Those thrilling harmonies at midnight heard
With sounds of flowing waters,—not in vain
Should the loose strings of my rude harp be stirr'd
By inspiration's breath, but one brief strain
Should re-assert thy rites, and celebrate thy reign.

XVII.

Vain were the hope to rival Bards—whose lyres,
On such a theme, have left me nought to sing;—
And one more Plant my humbler Muse inspires,
Round which my parting thoughts would fondly cling;
Which, consecrate to Salem's peaceful King,
Though fair as any gracing Beauty's bower,
Is link'd to Sorrow like an holy thing,
And takes its Name from Suff'ring's fiercest hour,—
Be this thy noblest fame, imperial PASSION-FLOWER!

[1] The Nightingale.

XVIII.

Whatever impulse first conferr'd that name,
Or Fancy's dream, or Superstition's art,
I freely own its spirit-touching claim,
With thoughts and feelings it may well impart:—
Not that I would forego the surer chart
Of REVELATION—for a mere conceit;
Yet with indulgence may *the Christian*'s heart
Each frail memorial of HIS MASTER greet,
And chiefly what recals his Love's most glorious feat.

XIX.

Be this the closing tribute of my Strain!
Be this, *Fair Flowers!* of charms—your last, and best!
That when THE SON OF GOD for Man was slain,
Circl'd by You, He sank awhile to rest,—
Not *The Grave*'s captive, but *A Garden*'s guest,
So pure and lovely was his transient tomb!
And He, whose brow the *Wreath of Thorns* had prest,
Not only bore for us Death's cruel doom,
But won *the thornless Crown* of amaranthine bloom!

The flower, and bird—the fish, the brute,
Of every kind, occult, or known,
(Each exquisitely formed to suit
Its humble lot, and that alone),
Through ocean, earth, and air fulfil,
Unconsciously, their AUTHOR's will,
Who gave, without their toil or thought,
Strength, beauty, instinct, courage, speed;
While through the whole his pleasure wrought
Whate'er his wisdom had decreed.

MONTGOMERY.

It is of great consequence, in the education of the young, to encourage their instinctive taste for the beauty and sublimity of Nature. While it opens to the years of infancy or youth a source of pure and of permanent enjoyment, it has consequences on the character and happiness of future life which they are unable to foresee. It is to provide them, amid all the agitations and trials of society, with one gentle and unreproaching friend, whose voice is ever in alliance with goodness and virtue, and which, when once understood, is able both to soothe misfortune, and to reclaim from folly. It is to identify them with the happiness of that nature to which they belong; to give them an interest in every species of being which surrounds them; and, amid the hours of curiosity and delight, to awaken those latent feelings of benevolence and of sympathy, from which all the moral or intellectual greatness of man finally arises. It is to lay the foundation of an early and of a manly piety amid the magnificent system of material signs in which they reside; to give them the mighty key which can interpret them; and to make them look upon the universe which they inhabit, not as the abode only of human cares, or human joys, but as the temple of the living GOD, in which praise is due, and where service is to be performed.
—ALISON.

O NATURE, whose Elysian scenes disclose
His bright perfections at whose word they rose,
Next to that Pow'r who formed thee and sustains,
Be thou the great inspirer of my strains.
Still as I touch the lyre, do thou expand
Thy genuine charms, and guide an artless hand;
That I may catch a fire but rarely known,
Give useful light though I should miss renown.
And poring on thy page, *whose ev'ry line*
Bears proof of an intelligence divine,
May feel a heart enriched by what it pays,
That builds its glory on its MAKER's praise.

COWPER.

Introduction.

OUTLINES

OF

HISTORICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

GEOGRAPHY, which, in its modern acceptation, is a noble and delightful study, receives increased value from its association with Christian benevolence. The knowledge of the globe, its inhabitants, and products, which was formerly confined to commercial or scientific purposes has been exalted by philanthropy, and consecrated by religion. We no longer *gaze upon* the map of the world, merely with a view of fixing the sites of battles, tracing the courses of rivers, the direction of mountains, or the forms and outlines of countries. In these researches, the mind is employed in nobler pursuits—man has become more peculiarly the object of study, and the exertions of benevolence have called the attention of thousands to the subject, who are occupied in tracing the diffusion of instruction, the growth of morality, and the increase of vital piety, in the dark parts of the earth.—MYERS's *Modern Geography*, Vol. II. p. iii.

Section I.

HISTORICAL SKETCH *of* GEOGRAPHY.

THAT the globe, which Infinite Wisdom has assigned for the probationary residence of human beings, should have excited their curiosity, even during the primeval ages of the world, cannot surprise those who reflect either upon the subject itself, or upon the nature of those powers which were bestowed for its contemplation. Various causes soon fanned this curiosity into desire, and impelled it into action; and though the motives were not always such as could either excite the approving smile of heaven, or command the applause of men, the result seldom failed

to increase the sum of human knowledge, and not unfrequently contributed to the comforts of human life. To point out the principal means by which this has been accomplished, and the twilight of geographical knowledge gradually brightened into the comparative splendour of the present day, as well as to show the bearing of this knowledge upon the arts and conveniences of life, is the object of the present essay.

At this distance of time, it would be impossible to trace, with precision, the early progress of Geography; but both reason and analogy show that it must have been at once slow and gradual. Its commencement must be referred to an era almost coeval with the origin of the human race; for mankind had no sooner spread themselves over a part of the earth's surface, than a knowledge of the adjacent regions became an interesting topic of research. Variety in the climates and situations of countries gave rise to a corresponding dissimilarity in their productions; and the desire of possessing a more diversified share of those than a single district afforded, was soon felt, and almost as early manifested in the simple traffic of primeval times. Under these circumstances, almost every step in the progress of the primitive knowledge of the globe either disclosed new enjoyments, or created new wants, which caused the transfer of natural productions from one region to another, as well as the discovery of new stores, to become an object of peculiar attention. The simple raft, originally formed for paddling on the river, or along the shore, and designed for procuring a daily subsistence from the watery element, was soon converted into a more noble bark, and employed in exchanging the productions of one region for those of another. On these frail vessels the votaries of *interest* soon launched themselves upon the bosom of the mighty deep, and thus rendered their ideas of primitive traffic subservient to an expan-

sion of general, and especially of geographical, knowledge.

The elements of society were undoubtedly nurtured in family compacts; and from the union of these, communities arose. Here circumstances soon favoured the views of aspiring individuals, who raised themselves to the head of their respective tribes—those primitive mole-hills, from which ambition cast its penetrating glance around, to discover the weakness and wants of adjacent hordes. The unchangeable nature of this passion renders the following description of the poet always applicable:—

> Th' *ambitious* prince doth hope to conquer all,
> The dukes, earles, lords, and knights hope to be kings;
> The prelates hope to pushe for popish pall,
> The lawyers to purchase wond'rous things.
>
> GASCOIGNE.

Every fresh accession of power gave a new impulse to ambition. A collision of interests between the leaders of opposing parties was artfully transferred from the individuals to the communities to which they belonged, and war was the necessary consequence. In this field of contention, the most enterprising or the most fortunate tribes added conquest to conquest, till they attained sufficient importance to acquire distinction in the tradition of the times, and appeared, in these records of the memory, like so many luminous points in the night of ages.

When flocks and herds were, in some measure, domesticated, and the fruits of the soil had been partially substituted for the products of the chase, each community naturally endeavoured to set limits to the pretensions of its neighbours, which gave rise to the first *cantons* or *countries*. Agriculture imparted still more regularity and permanence to these divisions; while politics, aided by the motives to which we have already referred, augmented their numbers, extended their bounds, and multiplied their ramifica-

tions, till, from the simple knowledge of a single district, we have reached that almost incomprehensible net-work of demarcations which now nearly encircle the globe.

Before we attempt to follow the march of this science, by exhibiting the outline of its gradual developement, its connexion with kindred subjects deserves to be noticed; and this we cannot do more appropriately than in the words of a recent author, who observes, 'In presenting a brief view of the rise and progress of Geography, it will be impossible, without doing violence to the subject, to untwist the three-fold cord which Nature herself has formed between the kindred sciences; to separate geography, navigation, and commerce, without breaking the legitimate connection between them, and stripping the facts of all that is most interesting, either in their causes or consequences. In treating, therefore, the present subject, we shall, occasionally, advert to the progress of both navigation and commerce, as they stand connected with that knowledge which it is the object of the present article to delineate. What has been observed of the march of science in general, is, indeed, particularly applicable to that of geography. When we would attempt to trace its origin and progress, instantly our eyes are directed to the east; and that quarter of the globe, first visited by the light of the natural day, is the point from which the rays of philosophy diverged, to visit the civilized world. The Chaldean seems to have borrowed from the Indian his love of science; from him it passed to the Egyptian; the Phœnician sailed with it down the Nile, and landed it on the shores of Greece. Rome plundered the States of Greece of their arts when she deprived them of their liberties. From Italy, the universal domination of the Romans extended civilization and knowledge over the western world; and philosophy found an honourable retreat

beneath the consecrated oaks of Britain. Such was the march of science in general, and such that of Geography in particular.'

In delineating the progress of this science, however, we must rest satisfied with indicating, rather than describing, the principal events which have contributed to its comparative perfection. Guided by the preceding route, we find the Chinese instituting a claim to an early acquaintance with the kindred science of astronomy; but there is no proof that they applied this knowledge to the improvement of Geography, as, in common with all other nations, during the infancy of their intellectual attainments, they considered their own country as situated in the middle of the habitable world, and of greater extent than all the others combined. The antient *Persians*, *Parthians*, and *Chaldeans*, are all supposed to have paid some attention to this subject, but their progress was not great, when they were surpassed by the Egyptians. Without classing all that is related of Sesostris among historical facts, the first communities of men were, doubtless, formed on the banks of rivers, and the fertility of Egypt early attracted numbers to the margin of the Nile. How to avoid, or repair, the evils which resulted from the inundations of that celebrated river, were the topics which early exercised the mental faculties of the Egyptians, and ultimately laid the basis of science. Attached to their native country by the spontaneous riches of its soil, and entertaining an abhorrence of the sea, the knowledge of the Egyptians did not, at that period, extend much beyond the valley which gave it birth. With these people, the Phœnicians, who settled on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, about 3000 years before the Christian era, formed a complete contrast. Their previous habits had made them bold and inventive; their country was narrow and sterile; the adjacent sea, with its

numerous islands, facilitated navigation, and invited to commerce; and they soon perceived that their only means, either of obtaining opulence, or rising into power, must be derived from foreign sources. Industry and enterprise became at once the cause and the effect of success; and by these, they collected the spices of the east, the gold of Ophir, and the perfumes of Arabia; and, with them, a rapid accumulation of geographical knowledge was a necessary concomitant. This adventurous people appear to have drawn sketches, and composed descriptions of the places they visited, as guides to future navigators of their *own* nation; but their commercial jealousy was ever active in concealing their discoveries, and preventing others from participating in that prosperity by which Tyre was 'replenished and made glorious in the midst of the sea'—by which she had become the 'queen of the ocean.' Hence it is that we are indebted to the Greeks for our acquaintance even of the Phœnician discoveries.

With these enterprising navigators the Hebrews were sometimes associated, particularly in the days of Solomon, and in their voyages to the land of Ophir: and among the most antient works that deserve attention for their information on this subject, are those of *Moses* and *Homer*, though each is employed upon a different topic. The Hebrew legislator had a mission infinitely superior to execute, but, in the prosecution of this, many of the ideas of the Hebrews, Phœnicians, and Arabs, are incidentally introduced; while the poems of Homer embody nearly all the cosmographical notions of his age. The primitive ideas relative to the figure of the earth were indisputably derived from the senses. All the early systems, therefore, represent it as a circular plain of unknown extent, surrounded by the ocean, upon which the azure vault of heaven reposed. The shield of Achilles, as described by this poet,

was, doubtless, intended to embody the ideas of his age, in reference to the supposed figure of the world.

> Thus the broad shield complete the artist crowned
> With his best hand, and poured the ocean round:
> In living silver seemed the waves to roll,
> And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole.

Beyond the watery belt which was imagined to encompass the earth, and connect it with the heavens, darkness and chaos maintained their antient empire. Without following the poet through all the particulars he has recorded, it is easy to perceive that the Grecian peninsula, with the adjacent isles, and Asia Minor, constituted the real extent of the Grecian geography of that age; for, on approaching the straight which separates Sicily from Italy, we immediately become sensible that we are quitting the limits of the real, and entering the vestibule of the fabulous world. The monsters of Scylla and Charybdis, the one-eyed Cyclops, the Lestrygons, the enchanted isles of Circe and Calypso, and the floating island of Æolus, all announce the dominions of fable.

Passing by the other amusing fables and traditions of the Greeks, we find the first attempt made by the antients, to reduce their knowledge into any thing like a regular system, was, that of endeavouring to fix the situation of countries according to climate, by which they indicated a space on the earth's surface parallel to the equator; but as they did not possess the means of doing this with precision, the attempt was too vague to be of any utility; and it was not till about 600 years before the Christian era that Geography received the form of a science, in the Ionian school, by the union of Chaldean astronomy with Egyptian geometry. *Thales*, one of the seven wise men of Greece, then made use of the gnomon in determining the passage of the Sun from tropic to tropic, and in thus ascertaining the different seasons of the year. He likewise disregarded the Homeric disk, and taught that the earth was a glo-

bular body. Maps do not, at that time, appear to have been wholly unknown, but they were merely topographical outlines of particular districts, until *Anaximander*, a pupil of Thales, constructed the first map of the world that was known to the Greeks. The same philosopher also estimated the circumference of the globe at 400,000 stadia; but as we have no means of fixing the precise length of the stadia he employed in his computation, it is impossible to determine the correctness of his estimate by comparing it with modern measures. About 100 years afterwards, *Aristagoras*, the tyrant of Myletus, made a map comprising the eastern part of the Mediterranean sea, with the contiguous districts of Europe and Asia. His particular object in this undertaking was to exhibit the route between Sparta and Susa, at that time the Persian capital, in hopes of inducing Cleomenes, King of Sparta, to attack the Persian monarch in his palace in that city. The rivers that were to be crossed, with the principal places of encampment in the route, were laid down. The whole distance was estimated at 13,000 stadia, and the map was considered as a good specimen of the constructions employed in these early times. In subsequent ages, *Herodotus, Scylax, Eudoxus, Aristotle*, and others, greatly improved the knowledge of Geography among the Greeks, by embodying the ideas that were gradually amassed by the genius of commerce, the progress of ambition, or the march of war. It was Aristotle's royal pupil, however, which gave the grand impulse to the study of Geography in the Grecian world. The Macedonian conqueror was accompanied by skilful men, whose business it was to make observations and collect information respecting the countries through which they passed; and as these documents were designed for future use, they were carefully examined and compared, and not unfrequently inspected by Alexander himself. While the Greeks were thus engaged in exploring the east-

ern world, Pytheas of Marseilles, and some of the Carthaginian navigators, were launching into the western ocean, and making fresh discoveries in that quarter; but as the latter were inspired with all the commercial jealousy of their Phœnician ancestors, little benefit resulted from their voyages. One of the grand sources of the improvement of this science, resulting from the conquests of Alexander, was, the city which he founded on the northern shores of Egypt, and called by his own name. This soon became the grand emporium of the world, and its vast library, under the Ptolemies, was the focus in which the mental labours of all preceding ages centered, and the observations of merchants and travellers flowed from all regions. These were the materials of which *Eratosthenes*, the learned librarian of that institution, endeavoured to raise the superstructure of his system, which he founded upon the basis of science. He first introduced a regular parallel of latitude into his map, which commenced near the Strait of Gibraltar, passed the southern extremity of Peloponnesus, and then entered Asia, where it terminated at a place called Thinæ, on the eastern shore of that continent. As this line passed through the centre of the Mediterranean, on the shores of which all the principal nations of antiquity were established, the extent of the world was usually estimated in that direction; and the whole length which the parallel embraced, was stated at 70,000 stadia, or rather less than one-third of what was then supposed to be the circumference of the globe. The same celebrated geographer, not only introduced other parallels of latitude into his map, but also attempted to draw meridians at right angles to these; and, notwithstanding the means he possessed for accomplishing his purposes did not allow him to attain correctness in his attempts, they were indisputably great improvements upon former constructions.

The next great step in the advancement of this

science, was the transfer of latitude and longitude from the heavens to the earth, by *Hipparchus*, about 140 years before the Christian era. These he considered as equally applicable in fixing the situations of places on the earth's surface, as they were in determining those of the celestial orbs. When Geography was thus established upon the immoveable basis of science, maps necessarily assumed a new form. The meridians and parallels were represented by curve lines, and the planisphere was introduced. It is to the geography of *Strabo* that we are indebted for the systems and improvements both of Eratosthenes and Hipparchus, as well as for the history of Geography for about 400 years after the death of Alexander. This, indeed, is the most valuable record of the geographical knowledge of these early periods, which has escaped the ravages of time, and descended to us. No great extent of surface had been explored from the age of Herodotus to that of Strabo, but much had been done in delineating, upon scientific principles, what was previously known; and attempts had even been made to determine the magnitude of the globe—an undertaking, equally bold in conception, and difficult in execution, when the means of accomplishing it are considered.—For a more particular description of the information presented by this celebrated author, we must refer to the *Introduction* to MYERS'S *Modern Geography*, p. xxii.

After the knowledge of the globe had been carried to this degree of perfection by the Greeks, a new and important era arose, with the final triumph of the Roman arms; for that renowned people were not only the conquerors of the world, but the surveyors of what they had conquered. Time had rolled on for centuries since civilization and wealth had begun to accumulate; and riches now followed conquest, and flowed with a rapid current into the imperial city. Mercantile enterprise was stimulated, and the ar-

dour of gain not only sought new regions, but, for the gratification of luxury or the pleasures of ambition, even ransacked those which were previously thought to be inaccessible. The works of *Pliny*, and of several other Latin authors, contain many excellent fragments of geographical knowledge; but it has been reasonably doubted, whether Rome, at that period, contained sufficient science for modelling these multifarious materials into a regular system. This herculean task was reserved for *Ptolemy*, of Pelusium, in Egypt, who undertook to fix, upon astronomical principles, the positions of all the principal places that were then known. Although he excelled all his predecessors, both in qualifications and opportunities for executing this great undertaking, it cannot be at all surprising that several remarkable errors should have since been discovered in his conclusions, and these even in the countries that were best known, and, consequently, where the greatest accuracy was to be expected: these, however, should be ascribed to the nature of the materials, rather than to the manner in which they were employed. Many of them were, necessarily, derived from the estimates of navigators and travellers; and as the extent of the world was then reckoned from east to west, and the gnomon was generally used for ascertaining the distances of places from the equator, his errors were chiefly those of longitude. Such, however, was the authority which Ptolemy had acquired in the scientific world, that most of his positions stood, like the axioms of truth, even unsuspected, till a comparatively recent period.—The reader may also find much information in the work above referred to, relative to Ptolemy's Geography.

Antient Geography may be considered as having reached its meridian splendour during that age; and the rays of mental illumination, which had then begun to dispel the surrounding gloom that had so long contracted the geographical horizon, from that time

shone with diminished lustre, till they were wholly absorbed in the general darkness, which for so many ages overshadowed the intellect of the western world. One of the principal events which hastened on this intellectual night was the overthrow of that stupendous fabric, which the self-denominated masters of the world proudly denominated the 'Eternal Empire.' During the protracted struggles for conquest and independence, by which the Roman fabric had been reared and maintained, war and commerce were combined in removing the errors, or enlarging the bounds, of geographical knowledge; but still vast regions existed beyond the verge of the Roman power, where a state of turbulent independence had nurtured an unsuspected multitude of warriors. But when the period arrived, that these conquerors of the world were, in their turn, to experience the fate of the conquered, 'the flood-gates of the north were thrown open, and the barbarians rushed with impetuous fury over the fairer regions of the south, and precipitated the downfal of the Roman power. The distinguishing characteristic of these new hordes of conquerors, was *intrepidity*. 'Inured by the rigour of their climate, and the poverty of their soil, to hardships which rendered their bodies firm, and their minds vigorous; accustomed to a course of life which was a continued preparation for action; and disdaining every occupation but those of war and hunting, they undertook and prosecuted their military exercises with an ardour and impetuosity, of which men, softened by the refinements of more polished times, can scarcely form an idea. Totally destitute of military and scientific acquirements, possessing neither leisure nor curiosity for inquiry into remote events, and wholly devoid of taste for appreciating the works of art, which every where met them in their progress, the tide of civilization seemed to have recoiled, and almost every vestige of refinement disappeared before them. The Romans had sub-

dued to enlighten and to civilize; but the scene was now reversed, and oblivion followed in the train of these northern conquerors, till new names, new people, new manners and customs, and even new countries, meet the geographical historian at almost every step.'

What the Goths and the Huns had so successfully commenced in the western empire, Mahomedan fury completed in the eastern. The effects of this frenzy on all that had been consecrated by wisdom, or rendered sacred by time, may be readily perceived from a single instance. When the general who has taken Alexandria, and wished to save, at least, a part of its incomparable library, wrote to Omar for permission to carry this laudable desire into execution, the latter replied, 'If the books concerning which you write contain only what is in the Book of God (the Koran), they are useless: if they do not agree with it, they are bad; therefore burn them.' Thus did this immense accumulation of antient wisdom perish by the hands of sacrilegious superstition; and as the same mistaken zeal in one quarter, united with barbarous power in the other, checked that commercial, as well as literary and scientific, enterprise, which civilization had fostered, the geographer was not only deprived of all means of making further progress, but was often unable to verify the correctness of what still remained. The principal works, therefore, of the ages immediately subsequent to those of Pliny and Ptolemy, were either abridgments or commentaries of these authors. Under these circumstances, an indistinctness soon took place in reference to all remote geographical objects—exploded theories were revived—the dark cloud of obscurity grew more dense, and ultimately spread the gloom of mental night over Europe.

While this thick cloud, however, hung undisturbed over the western part of the old world, the immortal spark of science was preserved in the east, where it

shone with a bright but feeble ray The little geographical knowledge which remained during this period was possessed by the Mahomedan Arabs; and, as these conquering disciples of the Arabian impostor had penetrated to the sea in various directions, they naturally adopted the idea of a circumambient ocean of undefined extent; the distant parts of which they denominated 'the sea of darkness,' while their total ignorance of that part which bounded northern Asia was emphatically expressed by an additional epithet, and that region was styled 'the sea of *pitchy* darkness.' Whatever may have been the extent of the knowledge preserved by these people, the principle of repulsion which existed between them and the Christian world, formed an impassable barrier to its diffusion; and it was not till the revival of learning in Europe had unlocked the remaining stores of Greece and Rome, and the impulse of enthusiasm had led her armies upon Mahomedan ground, that geographical knowledge was again diffused over these western regions. Though the fanatical zeal, which so completely electrified Europe in the eleventh century, and impelled such multitudes of crusaders to the east, was so extravagant in its nature, and destructive in its consequences, it was by no means destitute of beneficial results. Such was the ardour with which the kings and nobles of Europe engaged in projects so vastly disproportionate to their ordinary means of accomplishing them, that they had no other expedient left, but either to dispose of their territories, or to grant immunities and privileges to their subjects. The seeds of liberty and improvement being thus sown, though by the hand of superstition and folly, it was not long before they produced a visible effect upon European society. Now morning began to dawn—new enterprises roused the public mind from its long cherished lethargy—new objects courted its attention, and new efforts were made for their

attainment; till the steady light of experience rose, like the full orb of day, upon this benighted hemisphere, and darted its benign beams into more distant regions.

Advancing into the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the geographical historian finds a constellation of discoveries, acting and re-acting upon each other with such unprecedented power, that our limits preclude all but a mere enumeration. It was towards the close of the former of these periods, that *Vasco de Gama* doubled that frightful promontory, where the efforts of Diaz had been foiled, and the muse of Camoens had seen the genius of the ocean seated on a throne of clouds, waving his glistening sceptre, which tossed the ships, and let loose the tempests. The information diffused by the travels of Marco Polo, aided by that which resulted from religious and commercial enterprise, in that and the ages immediately subsequent, had turned the attention of reviving Europe towards the east. The mariner's compass was invented early in the fourteenth century, and its utility was proved, and the revolution it was calculated to effect in the art of navigation and the range of commerce became manifest before the beginning of the fifteenth. Portugal was, at that time, unrivalled in naval power, and various circumstances induced her to take the lead in maritime discovery. Cape Non was then the limit of geographical knowledge on the western coast of Africa; but, in 1415, Prince Henry sent an expedition with orders to pass that cape, and explore the coast as far south as possible. The first part of this mission was executed without much difficulty, but the tempestuous ocean which beat round Cape Bojador struck these navigators with so much terror, that no fresh attempt seems to have been made to approach it till 1433, when the difficulties were found to be no longer insurmountable, and the cross was planted in triumph on the opposite coast. Cape

Blanco was doubled in 1441; but it was not till 1472 that the southern hemisphere was first visited. Twelve years afterwards Congo was discovered, and hopes began to be entertained of finding a passage by sea to India. Bartholomew Diaz was then dispatched for the attainment of this object, but the frightful storms which prevailed near the southern promontory of Africa repulsed his attempts, and induced him to call it *Cabo Tormentoso;* which King John II afterwards changed into the Cape of Good Hope, as an omen of future success. It was not, however, till 1497, that Vasco de Gama overcame the appalling difficulties which had repelled his predecessors, and not only visited the south-eastern coast of Africa, but exhibited the Portuguese flag on the shores of India. So important was this event, that it laid open the whole Oriental world to European enterprise, which had now been so completely roused, that even this vast field became too confined for its daring operations, and it winged its adventurous flight over the unknown Western Ocean. The former discoveries had been accomplished by researches directed toward the south and east, but Christopher Columbus conceived the idea of reaching the same countries from an opposite point of the compass. Bold as this project was, and impracticable as it seemed, even to the enthusiasm of that enterprising age, he finally launched his frail barks on the bosom of the vast ocean, and ultimately disclosed a new hemisphere to the knowledge of astonished Europeans. This event not only incalculably exceeded all former anticipations, but gave rise to a thousand conjectures which it has been the work of ages either to establish or confute.

The invention of the mariner's compass was the precursor of these great events; but we are scarcely more indebted to this than to subsequent discoveries and inventions, which gave precision and correctness to our knowledge of the globe. Among the

chief of these were the invention of time-pieces, the discovery of refraction, and that of Jupiter's Satellites. The institution of learned societies was also another means of promoting this object; as, by the united labours of many, much has been accomplished, beneath the pressure of which, individual efforts, however courageously undertaken and judiciously persevered in, must ultimately have sunk. One of the necessary consequences of the unprecedented naval discoveries, which graced the close of the fifteenth century, was the *circumnavigation of the globe*, which constitutes a new and memorable era in the history of Geography. This has been the means of removing false impressions, of confirming well-founded ideas, of enlarging the bounds of our knowledge, and of enabling us to fill up its chasms in reference to many of the distant parts of the world. By it the spherical figure of the earth was at once experimentally proved; the expanse of waters, extending over nearly half the globe, and studded with numerous islands, was unfolded to the knowledge of Europeans; and the idea of a great southern continent ultimately banished from the mind of the theorist. Most of the American islands, and great part of the coasts of that continent, had been discovered by *Columbus*, the *Cabots*, *Cortereal*, and other navigators; and even both the north-east and north-west passage into the Pacific had been attempted early in the sixteenth century. The Portuguese were deriving great riches from the possession of the Spice Islands in the east; and the Pope, who appears to have thought the world was at his disposal, had invested the Spaniards with a right to all the discoveries they could make towards the west, which induced them to attempt a passage to India by the southern extremity of America. It was in this pursuit, that *Ferdinand Magellan*, in 1519, passed through the strait which still bears his name. After a dangerous passage through this rough channel, his vessel floated

in comparative tranquillity on the surface of an immense ocean, to which he gave the name of the Pacific; and on which he sailed from November till the 20th of March following, when he fell in with the Ladrone Islands. Then steering towards the south-west, he discovered some other small isles, on one of which he was killed by the natives. His companions afterwards fell in with the Philippines, and visited the Moluccas, which were previously known to the Portuguese. After this they passed the Sumatrian chain, touched at the Cape of Good Hope, and arrived in Spain, in 1522, after an absence of three years and a month. For more than half a century from that period the Spaniards seem to have been the chief, if not the sole, navigators of the Pacific; and the only inroads upon what they considered as their peculiar province, were made by the Portuguese from their oriental possessions. While, however, the Spaniards were traversing this vast expanse of waters, as they supposed in secret, the boldness of Sir *Francis Drake* displayed the British flag in those seas; and in 1578, after taking possession of the western coast of America, in the 48th degree of latitude, and making some discoveries, he crossed the Pacific, and returned by India and the Cape of Good Hope, and reached his native country, after an absence of two years and ten months.

Early in the seventeenth century, the Dutch having supplanted the Portuguese in the possession of the Moluccas, they pushed their discoveries further to the east and south-east than their predecessors had done: among their acquisitions in this quarter, was New Holland, which was seen by them in 1616, though the northern part of that island is supposed to have been previously known to the Spaniards or Portuguese, by whom Papua, or New Guinea, had already been discovered. During the same year, *Le Maire* and *Schouten* left Holland, and passed through Maire's Strait, near the southern extremity

of America, crossed the Pacific, discovered several small islands, and returned in the opposite direction. Their celebrated navigator, *Abel Jansen Tasman*, made several important discoveries in 1642 and 1643. Among these may be mentioned New Zealand, Pylstaart, and the Friendly Islands; besides proving both New Zealand and New Holland to be insular. Circumnavigations and voyages of discovery now crowd upon each other; and among the most distinguished names that occur, between 1675 and 1768, may be mentioned those of *La Roche, Dampier, Byron, Wallis, Carteret, Bougainville,* and *La Perouse.* These and their predecessors had, indeed, reaped the harvest of discovery, but the gleanings still remained to be gathered. What had already been done, had completely changed the features of the known world; but much even of the outlines was still to be disclosed, and more to be defined. It was under these circumstances, that the immortal COOK commenced his brilliant career in 1768, which was prosecuted, in three separate voyages, with unparalleled ability and success, till the 14th of Feb. 1779, when he was unfortunately killed by the natives of Owhyhee. In these researches, he completely proved the non-existence of a southern continent, unless so far enveloped in the Polar ice as to be nearly, if not altogether, uninhabitable. He examined the north-west coast of America, explored the eastern shores of New Holland, proved New Zealand to consist of two separate islands, discovered New Caledonia, and made Europe more intimately acquainted with the groups of the Society, the Friendly, and the Sandwich Islands. It was not, however, mere discovery that distinguished the voyages of this celebrated navigator; they were characterised by investigation, research, and science; and it was by these, principally, that the advantages resulting from them ought to be estimated. Fanciful theories vanished before his experience; regions already vaguely

known were explored by his perseverance; the natural sciences were extended; and even the moral history of man gained much by that tone of simple truth which he substituted for the romantic descriptions of his predecessors.' The Pelew Islands were discovered by the shipwreck of Captain *Wilson*, in 1783. M. *Peron*, Captain *Flinders*, and several other navigators, have also added greatly to our knowledge of *Australia*; nor have the more distant isles of *Polynesia* been either overlooked or neglected in these latter times.

It was not long after the passage to India, by the Cape of Good Hope, was discovered, before the spirit of enterprise was again directed towards finding a route to the same regions by an opposite direction, and attempts were once more made to double the northern extremity of America, as well as that of Asia; though they were not in either case productive of the desired success. The pursuit, however, was by no means relinquished on the first trials proving abortive; for among those who have endeavoured to penetrate into these icy seas, we find, in addition to the Cabots and Cortereals, already mentioned, and others who attempted the north-east route, the names of *Frobisher*, *Davis*, *Barentz*, *Weymouth*, *Hudson*, *Baffin*, and others in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. These researches chiefly took place between the close of the fifteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth centuries. After this a pause seems to have ensued, at least with regard to any public attempts on the part of England; but, in 1773, we find Captains *Phipps* and *Lutwidge*, with the Racehorse and Carcass bombs, once more sailing to the north, but, after reaching 80° 48′ of latitude, they were obliged to return, in consequence of the inpenetrable barriers of ice which opposed their progress. *Cook* had also the same object in view, but attempted the passage from the opposite side of the New World. This endeavour also proved un-

successful. The Russians have likewise taken part in these researches, and the late voyage of Lieutenant *Kotzebue* is well known. On the part of England, those of *Ross* and *Buchan* followed, in 1818; and these were again succeeded by a second expedition to the north-west, under the command of Lieutenant *Parry*, who had been with Captain Ross to the same regions. Of this voyage we have already given many interesting particulars in our volume for 1822. On the return of Parry's expedition, in the autumn of 1820, there was scarcely a man in the two crews who did not think that a practicable passage might still be found, either to the north or the south of that which had been attempted. The southern route was preferred, and a new expedition, consisting of the *Fury* and *Hecla* bombs, was prepared, and supplied with every thing which former experience had shown to be requisite, either to the success of the undertaking or the welfare and comfort of the adventurers.

Late discoveries now rendered it highly probable that the general limits of the American continent were below the 70th parallel of latitude, and that much of the space, for about 10° north of that shore, is occupied by an extensive chain of islands. There appears, indeed, to be little doubt that the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans unite between America and the Pole, though the passage from the one to the other, through the Polar Sea, may not be practicable. The three known points on this coast, which are Icy Cape, Mackenzie, and Copper Mine Rivers, with the distance that Captain Parry, in his former voyage, advanced to the west, and the space of about 500 miles, which Captain Franklin examined east of the Copper Mine River, all corroborate the existence of the Arctic Ocean, as above specified. Hearne assigned 72° to the mouth of the Copper Mine River, but Franklin found it in 67° 48′ of north latitude, and 115° 30′ of west longitude, which is about five degrees farther west than it is usually laid down in our best

charts. In addition to this, he ascertained that one point of the coast is as low as 66° 30′; and that opposite the whole shore, as far as he proceeded, there was an open sea for several miles in breadth, with deep water, and capable of being navigated by vessels of any size.

When Captain Parry, in the *Fury*, accompanied by Captain Lyon, in the *Hecla*, left England, in May 1821, he formed his most sanguine hopes of success upon keeping closer in with the land than he had done in the former instance; and, with this view, he shaped his course for Hudson's Bay, but all his efforts failed in the search of an outlet into the Arctic Ocean, though he braved two successive winters, and spent three summers in those regions of almost eternal frost; and from which the expedition has (October 1823) just returned, in health and safety; but without being able to advance as far, either in latitude or longitude, as in the former voyage. How strongly does the experience, acquired in these late voyages, verify the expression of the poet, as applied to a former navigator in those dangerous seas:—

> He for the passage sought, attempted since
> So much in vain, and seeming to be shut
> By jealous Nature with eternal bars.
>
> THOMSON.

Such was the interest that followed these intrepid navigators to those inhospitable abodes—such the fears excited by their protracted stay—and such the lively joy excited by their safe return, that we are persuaded we shall be excused for deviating from the strict line of historical narrative, to insert a slight biographical sketch of their leader. WILLIAM EDWARD PARRY, the fourth son of Dr. Parry, was born at Bath on the 19th of December, 1790, and received the rudiments of his education at the Grammar School of that city, under the care of the Rev. Nathaniel Morgan. Here he continued till he was

about twelve, pursuing his studies with diligence, and uniformly maintaining that deportment which gained him the regard of the masters and the esteem of his school-fellows. At that time Admiral Cornwallis commanded the Channel Fleet, to whom young Parry was recommended by a near relative of the Admiral, and was permitted to make trial of the naval service, under the immediate auspices of that gallant officer. He, therefore, joined the *Ville de Paris* in 1803; and, during his probationary year in this active scene, his conduct was such as secured the high opinion of both officers and crew. His intrepidity of character was often displayed, and his deference to his superiors, and his amiable attention to his equals, were constantly manifested. His classical and other attainments, which had been so assiduously acquired while at school, were by no means neglected in his new situation. Admiral Cornwallis had provided for the improvement of the younger members of the profession, and especially for those on board of his own ship. The Rev. William Morgan (afterwards Chaplain of the Royal Naval Asylum, Greenwich) was, at that time, Chaplain of the *Ville de Paris*, and was particularly attentive to the younger branches of his charge; so that, under these circumstances, the first year of Parry's professional career not only developed several valuable qualities of his character, but increased his store of knowledge, and seemed to have rivetted more firmly those principles of virtue and religion, which had been deeply impressed on his mind by the care and attention of his parents. It showed, too, that his taste and disposition were suited to the service to which he had been introduced. In reference to this period, the testimony of Admiral Cornwallis is decisive. On the 4th of August, 1804, he writes, 'I never knew any one so generally approved of. He will experience civility and kindness from all whilst he continues to conduct himself as he has

done, which, I dare believe, will be as long as he lives.' The first three years he spent on board the Admiral's ship, in the tedious and unprofitable task of blockading the French fleet in the harbour of Brest; a service in which he had great opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of good discipline and practical seamanship. He still continued equally attentive to his duty, and assiduous in improving his mind, and extending his knowledge, under the superintendance of the Rev. Mr. Morgan, for whose care he always manifested a strong sense of obligation.

In May 1806, Parry joined the *Tribune*, of 36 guns, then commanded by Captain Baker, and employed off L'Orient. In the following year, and a part of 1808, this vessel cruised off the west coast of France and the Peninsula, from Rochefort to Lisbon. The acts of service which presented themselves at this period were reconnoitring, and others, which belonged to the blockading party, into all of which young Parry entered with his usual spirit and promptitude. In April 1808, Captain Baker was appointed to the *Vanguard*, of 74 guns, then in the Baltic, and which Parry also joined in the following month. Early in the next year, great preparations were made for an active summer in that sea, against the Danes, in which service Parry was again employed. On the 6th of January, 1810, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and on the 9th of February joined the *Alexandria*, commanded by Captain Quilliam. Soon after this, the subject of this memoir began to study the situation of the principal fixed stars in our hemisphere, with a view of applying them to the purpose of finding the latitude and longitude at night; he was also, at the same period, employed in preparing charts of the northern navigation. During the two following years, the *Alexandria* remained on the Leith station, protecting the northern whale fishery, and Lieutenant Parry still continued to observe the stars. He also employed himself in mak-

ing a survey of the Balta Sound, and the Voe, in Shetland, a harbour which was very little known, though the only one capable of sheltering men of war in the north-eastern part of these islands. This chart was transmitted to the Lords of the Admiralty in 1813, who were pleased to signify their approbation of it, and to consider it as highly acceptable. Mr. P. also, about the same time, presented other charts, of the coasts between Denmark and Sweden, to the Hydrographer of the Admiralty. While engaged in this service, in 1812, the *Alexandria* was ordered to proceed as far as 76° of north latitude, and return with the last of the whalers; but she was prevented from reaching that parallel by large masses of floating ice, and made the North Cape. The following January, Parry was discharged from the *Alexandria*, and ordered to proceed to Halifax, in which station the years 1813 and 1814 were spent; and where he distributed, among the junior officers, several copies of his practical rules for observing the fixed stars, a corrected copy of which was afterwards printed. In May 1816, Parry was at the top of the Admiralty's list for promotion; and, in June, was appointed First Lieutenant of his Majesty's ship *Niger*, on the Halifax station, commanded by Captain Jackson, where he still secured the same esteem and confidence he had obtained on board other vessels. In consequence of a severe affliction experienced by his father, Lieut. Parry obtained leave to return to England, and he arrived in May 1817. He spent the summer in the vicinity of Bath, where his parent then resided; and in the autumn of that year, when the first of the late expeditions, in search of the north-west passage to the Pacific Ocean, was contemplated, Lieutenant Parry was strongly recommended to the Lords of the Admiralty; in consequence of which, he was appointed to the command of the *Alexander*, the second ship destined to explore that passage, under the orders of Captain Ross. The

particulars of this voyage are too well known to require repetition; and the result of the discussions which followed was the appointment of a *new expedition* to the same quarter, to sail in the following spring. Such was the high opinion which the Lords of the Admiralty entertained of Parry's conduct on the former occasion, that the second attempt was entrusted to his sole care and direction; as he not only received the command, but was consulted in the choice of the ships and officers of the expedition. The two ships (Lieutenant Parry in the *Hecla*, and Lieutenant Liddon in the *Griper*) left England in May 1819, under an extreme degree of public interest and anxiety. In November of the following year, both vessels almost unexpectedly returned; and, though the object of the expedition had not been fully realized, the most sanguine anticipations as to the safety of the crews had been surpassed; as not a single man was lost, except one who was unwell when the expedition left England. For the incidents and hardships of this voyage, we must refer the reader to Captain Parry's own explicit and circumstantial account, or to the volume of T. T. for 1822.

Such was the satisfaction which the conduct of the commander, under these new and trying circumstances, afforded to all concerned, that he was immediately promoted, and a *third expedition* planned, under the vigilance and care of the same experienced and intrepid navigator; and such was the confidence inspired by his former deportment, that the officers and men, who volunteered to accompany him, were treble the number that could be accepted. Capt. Parry, therefore, once more left his native country for these hyperborean regions, as already stated, in May 1821. The outward voyage was fair and prosperous. In passing up Hudson's Strait, they kept the land to the south, and afterwards explored the coast towards Repulse Bay. The farthest west which they attained

during the first summer, was 86°, and the highest latitude 69° 48′. Their time, during this period, was chiefly spent in examining Repulse Bay, and some inlets eastward of it, and through one of which they hoped to have found a passage into the Polar Sea. In this, however, they were completely disappointed, as they all proved to be destitute of any final opening; and they ultimately brought up, for their winter quarters, at a small isle, which they called Winter Island, in 69° 11′ of north latitude, and 82° 53′ of west longitude. In this situation they remained from the 8th of October, 1821, to the 2d of July, 1822. The vessels were within a short distance of each other; and the long and dreary winter was occupied in the same manner as in the former voyage, which has already been explained in our ninth volume. While in this situation, they were visited, in the early part of February, by a party of Esquimaux, who had never before seen any Europeans. These wandering hordes appear to depend chiefly upon the sea for their subsistence, and generally encamp near its shores, or on the ice. They were inoffensive people, and spent the remainder of the winter near their new acquaintance. On being once more liberated from their icy prison, the expedition steered towards the north, and explored several inlets in the short space in which the sea was open. The last of these straits they had the strongest reason to believe, both from their own observations and the accounts of the Esquimaux, separated the whole land on the north from the continent of America; but, after advancing about fifteen miles within its entrance, they were stopped by the ice. Being fully persuaded they were in the right channel for getting to the westward, they remained there about a month, in daily expectation that the ice would break up, and enable them to make their way towards the desired point; their longitude being then 82° 50′, and their latitude 69° 40′. In this hope, however, they were

again disappointed; and, on the 19th of September, the sea having begun to freeze, they left the strait, and once more moored the ships for winter quarters near a small island which the Esquimaux called Igloolik. Here they remained about a mile apart, and in latitude 69° 21′, and longitude 81° 44′, from the 24th of September, 1822, to the 8th of August, 1823. In the second winter, a more numerous tribe of Esquimaux, amounting to about 150, and including their visitors of the preceding year, settled near the ships, and were in daily intercourse with them, by which a fuller acquaintance with the manners and customs of these children of desolate nature was obtained. All hope of success in this quarter being now cut off, these hardy navigators shaped their course for their native country, and arrived at Lerwick, in Shetland, on the 10th of October; whence they made the north of England on the 16th, and Captain Parry reached London on the 18th. The *Fury* and *Hecla* were also safely moored, off Deptford Dock-yard, on the 22d, amidst the loud cheers of numerous spectators.—Such are the principal events in the life of this intrepid officer; events which do equal honour to his courage and skill as a navigator, and to his intelligence and humanity as a man.

When to these sources of information and discovery we add the efforts of modern science in determining the figure and magnitude of the globe, with the learning and enterprise of recent travellers—the extent to which these have been carried, and the success with which they have been crowned—little more seemed wanting to complete the survey of the globe. A more correct acquaintance with the subject, however, will convince us, that, rapid as the survey of the world, and the progress of geography, in modern times, have been, and extensive as our knowledge of the various regions of the globe now is, it must not be concluded that nothing remains for future re-

search to develope, that nothing is left for future travellers to explain. Darkness still rests upon some parts, and twilight yet casts its protracted shades over others. The vast regions of central Africa are mere blanks in the pages of geography; and the Alps, which guard the southern borders of the Table Land in Asia, still rise in mysterious sublimity; while, beyond them, much is unknown. The very shores of New Holland have not yet been fully explored, and darkness, perhaps, altogether impenetrable, rests upon the interior. Nor are the northern limits of America freed from uncertainty; as, whether it forms the southern shore of the Arctic Ocean, or pushes its immense lengths beneath the ice that for ever guards the pole, has lately been the object of research.

In the review of this developement of the world, the attentive reader will perceive, that the grand motives from which this knowledge has sprung were *war, commerce,* and *fame;* but all these are evidently limited in their effects, selfishness being the basis of each. The country which no labour can render productive, and whose inhabitants no efforts can make slaves, invites not to conquest; and when allurements no longer prompt, ambition ceases to soar, and knowledge, from this cause, to advance. Commerce, too, is restricted, not only by the wants of man, but by his ability to purchase what she has to transfer; and when these impelling motives cease to exist, a barrier is placed before her enterprising spirit;—a line of demarcation is drawn, and all beyond it retains its primitive obscurity. The love of knowledge, and the desire of fame, have also been inadequate to the mighty task of exploring the dark and almost impenetrable regions of the globe. But Divine Providence, in the developement of its plans for the benefit of man, has added a still more powerful motive to the former catalogue; and it is to this that we must now look for the removal of

those chasms in our geographical knowledge, which seem almost as if designed by Nature, and consecrated by Time. 'Nor does the information derived from this source merely relate to rocks and rivers, woods and mountains, the physical structure of countries, and their inanimate or irrational productions. No; the spread of knowledge, the march of intellect, the dispersion of ignorance and error, and the fitting of the immortal spirit for its final destiny, are the leading objects. Benevolence, too, is now added to all the other powers that were previously engaged in exploring the unknown recesses of the terraqueous globe—benevolence which knows no limits but those which bound the wants of man, or circumscribe the countries he inhabits. Deserts, islands, continents, are the theatre of its exertions: this life is the period of its conflict and toil—the next, the era of its reward. It is not the places where Babylon and Nineveh reared their proud walls, where Thebes or Carthage flourished, or where Balbec, Palmyra, or Persepolis stood, that are so much the object of the Christian's inquiry, as where the cross has been planted, and the banners of the gospel unfurled. It is not the precise point where Alexander crossed the Granicus, or Hannibal the Alps—where Cyrus triumphed or Cæsar bled—that is so interesting to him, as where the armies of our missionary martyrs are gaining daily conquests over sin and Satan—where our Marsdens, our Careys, our Buchanans, and our Martyns, are fertilizing the moral wilderness, and securing for their country the veneration of millions, which neither her arts nor her arms could ever reach. It is not with half the intensity of feeling that the merchant lays his finger on the globe, and says, here grows the fig, there the olive, and there the vine—which the real Christian enjoys as he points to the spot where blooms the tree of life, whose fruits are righteousness, joy, and peace.' [redacted] *on Missionary Establishments.*

It is obvious, however, that it cannot be the lot of many to satisfy this thirst for knowledge by roaming into distant climes, and reading the living book of Nature as it is spread before them, either in its primitive simplicity and grandeur, or as modified by the arts of man. Few, comparatively very few, are permitted to gaze upon the Ganges and the Nile, to tread the wilds of Siberia, bask in the groves of Italy, or scale the Cordilleras of the New World. The great mass of mankind must be indebted to the patient geographer, who reduces into systematic arrangement the facts that are amassed by actual observation. Travellers are, therefore, the handmaids of geography, who collect the precious materials which she disposes into forms of beauty and utility. They collect the scattered fragments with which she constructs her stately edifice—they resemble vessels returning richly freighted with merchandize: but this acquires its full value only when it comes from the hand of the skilful artificer; the necessary brevity, however, of this historical sketch precludes any enumeration of the various individuals who have been eminently employed in this important undertaking.

Section II.

Outlines of Physical Geography.

——— He, who spoke the word,
And the Sun rose from chaos, while the abyss
From the new fires with shuddering surge recoiled;
He, at whose voice the Moon's nocturnal beam,
And starry regions, on the admiring earth
Rained lustre; He whose providence the change
Of day and night and seasons crowned with food,
And health and peace proclaimed; bade Nature's hand
Point to the scenes of dim futurity. GISBORNE.

Having thus presented a brief view of the principal means by which our knowledge of the terraqueous globe has been brought to its present state, we shall place before our youthful readers a few of the most interesting facts in the physical structure of

this 'ever rolling ball.'—From the elements of Astronomy (see T. T. for 1815), we learn that the Earth is one of the globular bodies which constantly revolve round the Sun, and with that resplendent luminary constitute what astronomers call the Solar System. The figure of the Earth is not exactly spherical, but flattened at the poles, so that the equatorial diameter is about 25 miles greater than the polar diameter; which gives them a ratio of 312 to 311: it may therefore be considered as spherical in all that relates to geographical purposes. The Earth has two distinct motions; the one about its own axis in 24 hours, which is the cause of day and night; the other round the Sun, once a year, which gives rise to the different seasons, with all the advantages attendant upon their regular and beautiful succession. As the ecliptic, or apparent path of the Sun in the heavens, crosses the equator, he is sometimes on the north and at others on the south side of that circle. The Sun is therefore vertical at least once a year to certain places in each hemisphere; and as this space depends upon the angle made by these two circles, which astronomers have found to be nearly 23° 28′ (see T. T. for JANUARY), the greatest distance of any of these places is equal to that space measured on the meridian. The two circles which bound these extremes, and above which the Sun is at the summer and winter solstices, are called the tropics; that on the north side of the equator is *the tropic of Cancer*, and the one on the south side *the tropic of Capricorn*. The space included between them, and which is 46° 56′ in breadth, is the *torrid zone*. When the Sun is on each of the tropics, he shines 23° 28′ beyond the nearest pole; and the two circles supposed to pass through these limits, and to encompass the poles, are the *polar circles*. That round the north pole is the *arctic*, and that about the south pole, the *antarctic circle*. The spaces between these circles and the poles are the *frigid zones*, and those be-

tween them and the tropics, the *temperate zones:* each of these latter is, therefore, 43° 4′ in breadth. From these data, and the radius of the Earth, the extent of each zone may easily be calculated, and, consequently, their relative proportion to each other determined. This calculation gives the torrid, temperate, and frigid zones, in proportion to the numbers 796, 519, and 83; or by supposing the whole surface of the Earth to be represented by unity, these respective parts will be denoted by the following numbers: viz.

The torrid zone	0·398
The temperate zones	0·519
The frigid zones	0·083
	1·000

It is from their comparative temperatures that these zones derive their respective names, and which depend in a great measure upon the obliquity with which the solar ray falls upon the Earth's surface. By this means an equal number of rays are not only spread over a larger space, but, having to pass a greater distance through the terrestrial atmosphere, they lose part of their influence before they reach the ground.

Considering the Earth merely in a geographical point of view, and confining our attention to the surface, we immediately perceive that this is naturally divided into land and water; the latter occupying the greater extent, and the former rising in all immaginable variety above its surface. On casting our eyes over a globe, we readily perceive that two vast masses of land present themselves, one in the eastern and the other in the western hemisphere; while the other parts appear as if shattered into fragments by some great convulsion of Nature, and scattered into a thousand islands, varying in magnitude, from the most colossal dimensions to the almost imperceptible rock, scarcely emerging from

the bosom of the deep. The distribution of the land and water is extremely various. One hemisphere contains more land than water, while the opposite half is wholly covered with that fluid, except a few islands and projecting points of the continents. This is fully exemplified, if London and its Antipodes be taken for the poles of the two hemispheres into which the Earth's surface is supposed to be divided. If we consider the distribution of land in reference to the two hemispheres into which the Earth's surface is divided by the equator, and the zones into which they are again divided, the quantities will be found to be nearly in the following proportions; the whole area of each zone being represented by unity.

In the northern part of the torrid zone	·297
In the northern temperate zone	·559
In the northern frigid zone	·400

A similar estimate for the southern hemisphere gives,

In the southern part of the torrid zone	·312
In the southern temperate zone	·075
In the southern frigid zone	·000

By adding the numbers for the respective zones together, and dividing by 2, we shall obtain the proportion of land and water in each zone: viz.

	Land.		*Water.*
In the torrid zone.....	·3045	...	·6955
In the two temperate zones	·3170	...	·6830
In the two frigid zones	·2000	...	·8000

From these quantities compared with the proportional areas of the respective zones, as given above, the quantities of land and water in each zone may be computed, when the whole surface of the Earth is denoted by *unity*. These respective proportions of land are,

In the whole of the torrid zone	·1212
In the temperate zones.....	·1645
In the frigid zones.....	·0166
The whole proportion of land.....	·3023

The land, therefore, occupies rather more than *three tenths* of the whole surface, and consequently the water covers nearly *seven tenths;* and as the total area is about 16,370,200 square leagues, if the preceding numbers be multiplied by this we shall obtain a near approximation to the quantity of land in each zone, as well as in the whole surface. The great preponderance of land in the northern hemisphere over that on the southern side of the equator cannot escape the most superficial observer. The former contains more than three times the quantity in the latter. The principal mass, particularly of the Old World, is situated on the north side of the equator; and, indeed, nearly two thirds of the whole is north of the tropic of Cancer, while scarcely one tenth lies south of that of Capricorn. No regularity can be observed in the arrangement of the solid parts of this surface; for the only appearance of symmetry is, that nearly all the great promontories are directed towards the south. The general direction of the land in the two continents is different. In the New World, it is from pole to pole; in the Old, including Africa, it is nearly parallel to the equator. The longest line that can be drawn is from the Cape of Good Hope to the north east part of Africa, which is about 2,960 leagues; while in the New World a line from the mouth of the River la Plate to Bhering's Strait is nearly 2,640 leagues: a resemblance, however, is perceptible between the Old and New Worlds, so far as the approaching seas almost divide each into two parts; the Isthmus of Suez joining Asia and Africa, and that of Panama connecting North and South America.

The surface of the land in both hemispheres is moulded into all possible varieties of declivity, from the horizontal plane to the perpendicular rock. In reference to the declivities themselves, they may be divided into two great classes, those which descend towards the exterior, and those which face the inte-

rior; and which may be readily traced on the map by the directions of the rivers, which always rise in the most elevated parts, and descend to the lowest. A careful examination of the globe leads to the following division of the solid part of the Earth's surface.

1. *Mountains,* separated from each other by deep vallies, and presenting only plateaux and other small plains.

2. *Extensive plains* nearly covered with herbaceous vegetables; as steppes, savannas, ilanos, pampas, &c.

3. *Sandy deserts;* which are extensive in many parts of the globe.

4. Regions which are intersected by *hills,* and watered by *rivers,* in which rocks and sand bear but a small proportion to the whole surface. It is those which are best adapted for the residence, and most capable of supplying the wants of man.

Though it would be foreign to the present purpose to enter into any lengthened geological delineations, it would, perhaps, be equally inconsistent with the nature of this essay to omit the subject altogether. We shall, however, notice it as briefly as possible, referring to the Introduction to TIME'S TELESCOPE for 1818, which contains '*Outlines of Geology and Mineralogy.*'

Nothing can be known respecting the central nucleus of the Earth, beyond a few shadowy conceptions, deduced by inference from what is more obvious to our senses. The outer crust is more exposed to view, and more subject to our examination. As far as human experience has yet proceeded, the materials of which this exterior is composed may also be arranged under four classes:—

1. Those rocks which neither contain any animal or vegetable remains, nor are mixed with others in which they are enclosed. These are called *primitive* rocks, as having been formed before the existence of organized beings. Some of the most

abundant of this class are granite, gneiss, mica slate, and clay slate; with quartz, serpentine, granular limestone, &c. which are more sparingly distributed over the surface of the globe. These rocks are not only free from all kinds of organic remains, but generally lie beneath those in which they are found.

2. Such rocks as contain these remains have been formed since the existence of organized beings, and are denominated *secondary* rocks. The principal of these are greywacke, sandstone, limestone, gypsum, slate clay, and a certain kind of trap, all which are usually found resting upon the primitive rocks.

3. The preceding class of substances is again covered with gravel, sand, earth, and moss, which are termed *alluvial formations;* and constitute the general and outward coating of the continental and insular parts of the globe.

4. In addition to the preceding classes, certain places on the Earth's surface exhibit beds of lava, *scoriæ*, and other substances, ejected by means of subterranean fire: these are known by the name of *volcanic formations.* The metallic substances are found in too small and insulated portions to form any exceptions to this general classification of the exterior parts of the Earth.

To an inexperienced eye, the outer crust of the Earth presents a confused appearance of different substances, but, on a closer examination, a distinct arrangement may be traced. When the primary and secondary rocks are exposed to view together, it is usually found that the latter are incumbent on the former. The granite is almost invariably found under all the others, and yet it occupies the highest summits of the Earth's surface. The gneiss, which is only a stratified granite, lies next it, and this is succeeded by mica slate, which is followed by clay slate. The greywacke and other secondary rocks are then incumbent on these. When the primary rocks appear through the others, as they frequently

do in the higher parts of the globe, they often seem as if they stood on edge, and are seldom inclined to the horizon in a less angle than 45°. The secondary rocks have more the appearance of mechanical deposits, occupying a lower level than the former, and are placed more horizontally. Many phenomena in geology show, that the formation of rocks has been accompanied, nearly in all stages, by the process of waste, decay, and recomposition. The primary rocks being acted upon by air, water, and other agents, become disintegrated, and, being afterwards united by a cement, constitute the first species of the secondary class; while the debris of this class, when aggregated in the same manner, form the third. But the most interesting memorials of the past history of the globe are supplied by the myriads of *organical remains* which are contained in its exterior crust: these present traces of numerous orders of beings which appear to have succeeded each other at different times, and under different circumstances. Not only every age, but every region, climate, and element, seem to have been rendered tributary to some of the principal of these deposits of organic remains. As a specimen of these singular collections we may refer to Mount Bolca, in Italy, about 20 miles north-east of Verona. The surrounding districts bear evident marks of former volcanic action, as well as of having once been covered with the sea; though now wholly destitute of those active energies of nature, and at least 50 miles from the nearest shore. Plants, shells, land and marine animals, leaves, birds, and insects, are found deposited in this mountain, in almost every direction, sometimes in separate beds, and at others combined with productions obviously volcanic. What is still more extraordinary, most of the rivers, seas, and climates of the globe appear to have contributed to the stores of Bolca. The petrified fishes of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, are found embedded in

large masses of rock on the side of this mountain, more than 1000 feet above the present level of the sea.

Simple or detached mountains are not frequently met with except in volcanic districts, or those in which trap rock abounds. Mountains usually exist in extended bands, either in one central chain, with ramifications running off nearly at right angles to the main ridge, or of several ranges almost parallel to each other. In both these cases, they are often accompanied by subordinate chains, or inferior elevations; and the lengths of these ridges are commonly great in proportion to their breadths. These remarks may be readily exemplified by examining a good map of the Alps, the Andes, or other of the great ridges, in either hemisphere. The highest points of the main chains are usually about the middle, as Mont Blanc in the Alps, Chimborazo in the Andes, &c.; but the most elevated parts of those which branch from the main ridges, are at the points where they join the parent stem. Cols, or necks, are the lowest parts of these ranges, and those over which passages are generally effected. The Col de Brenner is the least elevated tract of the great Alpine range of Europe, and is about 4680 feet above the level of the sea. There are four other principal passes over this chain, which vary in height, from 6500 to 8000 feet. The lowest passage over the Pyrenees is about 3400 feet in elevation, and that of the Andes 12,000 feet. The summits of these chains sometimes constitute a series of peaks, and at others form extensive plains, denominated plateaux, like those in Mexico and central Asia. It has also been observed, that mountains, which surround lakes or seas, have their steepest sides towards the water. The form and arrangement of vallies must necessarily depend upon those of the mountains. Those which separate the main ridges are denominated principal or lateral vallies, and those which divide the branches are called

subordinate vallies. Some of them have obviously been lakes at some former period; and many small lakes still exist in the higher parts of the chains. Several of these are from 8000 to 13,000 feet above the level of the sea; but most of the large lakes are near the foot of the mountains, and are seldom more than from 600 to 1600 feet above the same level.

Though *volcanoes* occupy but a small portion of the earth's surface, they have, in consequence of their terrific grandeur, forcibly arrested the attention of mankind in all periods of their existence. The whole number of these peculiar and often splendid phenomena exceeds 200, including all which have been active within the period of historic records. Only thirteen or fourteen are in Europe; and it has been estimated that 107 are on the islands, and about 90 on the continental parts of the globe. Very few are in constant activity; many of them remain dormant for long periods, and some for ages; nor is their activity by any means proportional to their size, for the greatest energy is often manifested by those which are the least in magnitude. Only a few of those that are active eject lava, while the greater number emit only smoke and ashes. Extensive currents of water, accompanied with mud, sometimes descend from volcanoes; but where these are seated in the region of perpetual snow, this undoubtedly arises, in a great measure, from the immense quantities that are melted by the change of temperature produced by the eruption. A striking example of this is afforded in Cotopaxi, which rises above the line of perpetual frost, and, when ignition takes place, destructive torrents descend from the heights near the crater, one of which swept away a village thirty leagues from its brink. Others have obtained the name of *air* and *mud* volcanoes, from their ejecting gaseous fluids, water and mud, without any connexion with subterraneous fire. The space which these phenomena occupy on the terrestrial surface,

however, is comparatively small; for it has been estimated, that all the beds of lava, which have yet been emitted by these subterranean fires, do not cover more than 20,000 square leagues, which is only about one 800th part of the whole surface. Though no satisfactory theory of volcanoes has yet been established, several circumstances have been ascertained which deserve to be stated. Water seems to be a necessary agent in the production of volcanic fire; columns of aqueous vapour ascend, and torrents of salt water flow from these reservoirs of elemental strife. Extinct volcanoes are generally found at a considerable distance from the sea, while those which are most active are in its immediate vicinity, and some of them are actually submarine. The matter by which volcanoes are fed does not appear to be universally diffused, but collected in particular places, and either disposed in beds or veins; as their existence is found either in groups or lines. Thus, Iceland presents one group; Sicily and the South of Italy another; the Archipelago a third; the Canary Islands a fourth; while those of Mexico, and, perhaps, the southern parts of the Andes, are ranged in lines. There does not appear, however, to be any immediate connexion between the different members of the same group; for the one is frequently active while the others are dormant; and when the fire breaks out in one, the rest are not affected by the circumstance.

In this brief physical sketch we must, necessarily, restrict ourselves to a slight description of the more prominent features of the terrestrial surface. If we examine what is generally called the *old continent* with attention, we shall perceive that the declivity of its surface, with the courses and directions of its rivers, are chiefly determined by a great zone of mountains, which traverse it from one extremity to the other. The commencement of this grand Alpine region is on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, between

30° and 42° of north latitude, and its mean latitude may be considered as the 40th parallel. On the western part, the Sierras of Spain, the Pyrenees, the Alps, and the mountains of Atlas in Africa, should obviously be considered as belonging to the same grand range, not separated by an open plain, but by a long narrow inland sea, exhibiting all the characteristics of one of those profound lakes which occupy the bottoms of some of the vallies that divide the parallel ridges of the same great chain. The Appenines, which extend through Italy, and are continued in Sicily, with the branches which stretch towards the Morea, may be considered as connecting the European and African ranges. In Asia, this zone may be traced under the names of Taurus, Caucasus, and Elburg, to the 70th degree of east longitude, where it divides into two grand branches. One of these assumes a south-east direction, and forms the great Himalayah range, which is supposed to contain some of the highest peaks on the globe, and extends within 400 or 500 miles of the Gulf of Bengal. The other, under the name of Mount Altai, and Yablony, runs towards the north-east, till it meets the Pacific Ocean about the 55th degree of latitude, and the 140th of east longitude. The whole length of this range is nearly 8000 miles, and its breadth varies from 500 to 2000 miles. The Carpathian mountains, towards the centre of Europe, with some other branches, both here and in Asia, may be considered as ramifications of the main trunk. The two ridges that separate about the 70th degree of longitude, support the great plateaux of central Asia, from the flanks of which the largest rivers in that quarter of the globe descend, and roll their waters across the vast plains which divide it from the opposite seas. Thus we perceive the Burrampooter, the Ganges, the Indus, the Euphrates, and the Tigris, with several other noble streams, both of Hindostan and the ultra Gangetic regions, descending to the

south, and mingling their watery treasures with the Indian Ocean. From the northern flanks of this plateau, the Oby, the Yenisei, the Lena, and other mighty streams, pursue their sluggish courses through the swampy wilds of Siberia; and, though bound in the icy chains of inexorable winter during the greater part of the year, they still mingle the water collected, in their almost interminable courses, with the waves of the Arctic Sea. The Hohan-Ho, the Yang-Tse-Kiang, the Amur, and the other vast streams of China and eastern Tartary, pour their floods through Oriental Asia.

The elevation of this great belt of mountains—this *spine of the Old World*—is various in its different parts. According to the most authentic accounts, the summits of Mount Atlas are covered with perpetual snow, and must, therefore, exceed 10,000 feet in height. The highest points in the South of Spain, as well as of the Pyrenees, exceed 11,000 feet; the Alps exceed 15,000; the Carpathians are between 8000 and 9000; Mount Ætna about 11,000; and the mountains of Greece between 6000 and 9000 feet above the level of the sea. The heights of very few of the Asiatic mountains have been correctly ascertained; but as several of the peaks of Taurus, Caucasus, and others of the western regions, enter the limit of perpetual snow, they must be at least 9000 feet above the sea. But the most elevated parts of this great belt are the Himalayah summits, which are said to be between 25,000 and 28,000 feet high. The Altai part of the chain is but little known; but it stands upon a very elevated base, and, in some parts, it undoubtedly towers to a great height. Independently of this grand system of mountains, there are two extensive detached chains in the northern part of the Old World. The Dofrines, or Norwegian Alps, which extend about 1000 miles from north to south, but seldom exceeding 6000 feet in height. The rugged tracts of Scotland and England may be con-

sidered as a detached portion of this chain. The other range is the Ural mountains, which stretch between Europe and Asia, for the space of nearly 1400 miles, but are not very elevated, though the actual height is yet unknown. The Dofrines obviously impart a peculiar character to the Scandinavian Peninsula, and have their regular system of ramifications, declivities, and rivers, but the Uralian mountains have very little influence either upon Europe or Asia. The whole surface of the great Mediterranean belt that determines the direction and elevation of surface over the greater part both of Europe and Asia, as well as of nearly one-fifth of Africa, has been estimated at five millions of square miles; and it not only determines the courses of all the great rivers in the Old World, except the Niger and the Nile, but has a very sensible effect upon the climate of almost every region, from the Bay of Bengal to the Arctic Sea, and from the Strait of Gibraltar to the Pacific Ocean.

Another characteristic feature of the old continent is the vast plain which bounds the mountainous region on the north. Commencing at the shores of the North and Baltic Seas, this plain stretches towards the east to the coast of the Pacific, with the single interruption of the Uralian chain, which crosses a great part of it about the 60th degree of east longitude. It may be considered as the largest plain on the globe, including the whole space from the 50th to the 70th parallels; and thus spreading through an extent of nearly 6000 miles in length and 1400 in breadth, and covering a surface of at least six millions and a half of square miles. The inclination of the western parts of this plain is chiefly towards the North Sea and the Baltic; but after passing the 30th degree of east longitude, about one-fifth of it slopes to the Black Sea and the Caspian; and the other four-fifths to the Arctic Ocean. Between the parallels of 50° and 60°, the surface is capable of cultiva-

tion, and is, in many places, rich, but in other comprises saline deserts and extensive heaths. Several places are well wooded, but a great part of it consists of open pastures, denominated steppes. Beyond 60° the frost is so intense and continued, as to render cultivation very confined and precarious. A few stunted trees only are found, and near the northern confines of both Europe and Asia the ground is never thawed more than a few inches below the surface. The declivity of this plain, especially the Asiatic part of it, is so small, and the course of the rivers consequently so slow, that they are navigable almost to their sources during the short periods they are free from ice.

A third distinguishing feature in the physical aspect of the Old World, which must not be passed without a brief notice, is that *immense zone of sandy deserts*, which bounds a great portion of the mountainous region on the south. This stretches, almost without interruption, from the western coast of Africa to the mouth of the Persian Gulf, and from about the 18th to the 31st degree of latitude: its breadth may, therefore, be estimated at 900 miles, and its length at 4500. A better idea of it, however, will be obtained by considering the African and Asiatic parts separately. Under this point of view, it will be found to extend across the former continent, from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Red Sea, occupying a belt of about 13° in breadth. From this sea, it extends towards the north-east, in a triangular form, till it reaches the 50th parallel, and the 120th degree of east longitude. This wide space, however, includes several fertile tracts, or *Oases;* but the greater part of it is composed of arid sands, which are frequently drifted into ridges resembling the waves of the sea; and the whole extent in both continents may be estimated at six millions of square miles. Besides the wavy appearance of its surface, this region is characterised by burning and pestilen-

tial winds, by an extraordinary aridity of the atmosphere, and by the want of rivers. If we except the Indus and the Oxus, scarcely a stream of any size pours its salutary treasures through this wide space, which is nearly double the size of Europe. The most extensive and unbroken tracts of sand are the great Sahara, in the western part of Africa, Arabia, and the wide region of Tibet; and it is by no means an improbable estimate to state, that three-fourths of the whole space, included within the widest limits above specified, consist of irreclaimable deserts. In reference to the traveller crossing these, the poet observes,

> —He, while a vault of flame
> Smote on his brow, and scorched his gasping throat,
> Day after day through sandy oceans toiled,
> Where death-like silence brooded o'er the waste,
> And boundless space seemed but a larger grave;
> No sign that ever foot the burning earth
> Had tracked, or life inhaled the vapoury fire,
> Save where some camel's bleaching ribs he past,
> Or corse of long-lost pilgrim parched to stone.
>
> GISBORNE.

On the southern borders of the great Sahara, a fertile region appears to cross the African continent, embracing the basins of the Niger, the Senegal, the Gambia, and the upper part of the Nile. Beyond this, a range of mountains rises behind the coast of Guinea, while either another group, or the eastern end of the same range, attains the elevation of perpetual snow in Abyssinia; and, if these join in the centre, they must form a zone of great height across the whole continent. South of this, little is known till we arrive at the colony of the Cape of Good Hope. If we examine the south and south-east of Asia, including India and China, and the intermediate countries, we shall find them composed of a series of mountains and vallies, formed by the ramifications of the great *Himalayah chain*, and several of these vallies spreading into marshy plains

before they reach the sea. The islands of the Indian Archipelago can only be considered as the summits of submarine mountains, or as small plateaux, similar to those which would be formed, if the ocean were to overflow the adjacent parts of the continent.

In casting a rapid glance over the wide regions of the *New World*, and taking the two grand parts separately, we immediately perceive that a magnificent ridge runs from north to south, throughout the whole extent of *South America*, but much nearer the western than the eastern coast. Its distance from the shore of the Pacific varies from about 50 to 150 miles, and its highest point is near the equator, where the towering summit of Chimborazo rises to the height of about 21,440 feet above the level of the sea. From this point the Andes decline both ways, and the medium elevation of Peru may be estimated at 12,000 feet. The most abrupt and steep flanks of these mountains are towards the west. Near the middle they are composed of two or three parallel ridges, separated by some of the most elevated and delightful vallies on the surface of the globe. It is on one of these singular spots that the celebrated city of Quito stands. This valley enjoys a salubrious climate, and contains a concentrated population; and those who reside in that elevated, and, as it relates to the rest of the world, secluded spot, where the mercury in the barometer stands, with very little variation, at the level of 20 inches, gradually forget that every surrounding object, the towns crowded with inhabitants, the pastures with flocks and herds, the fields waving with luxuriant harvests, hang, as it were, suspended in the upper regions of the atmosphere, at the extraordinary height of 9000 feet above the level of the sea. The city of Quito, with its 70,000 inhabitants, stands at an elevation of 9510 feet. The principal transverse branches, which proceed from the Andes of South America, are on the eastern side. One of these runs

through the Caraccas, about the 8th or 9th degree of latitude; and in some places rises to the height of 7000 or 8000 feet. Another of these ridges separates Guiana from the basin of the Maranon, but it is of inferior height. A third projects from the Cordilleras, about the 18th or 20th degree of south latitude, and spreads into a table land as it approaches the shore of the Atlantic. The height of this has not been ascertained, but the medium is supposed not to exceed 5000 or 6000 feet. Nearly all the level country in South America is on the east side of the Andes, and is divided into three vast plains, which constitute the basins of the three great rivers, the Orinoco, the Maranon, and the La Plata. In the first of these plains, the eye of the traveller is fatigued by the unvaried aspect of one boundless level, smooth as the bosom of a tranquil sea; without an object of any kind, above the height of a mole-hill, upon which the eye can rest, as a relief from the monotony of the scene; and it is on the banks of the rivers only that a tree can be found. This region is by no means a barren desert. After the annual rains, it is covered with luxuriant herbage, which springs up with surprising rapidity; but, during the dry season, is as quickly reduced to dust, and disappears. The whole plain then presents the aspect of a parched desert, full of fissures, produced in the contracting soil by the powerful beams of a vertical Sun; and in these the alligator and the great serpent lie buried, amidst the dry mud, till they are awakened by the returning showers. These plains are generally denominated *Llanos*, by the Spaniards; and the *Pampas* of La Plata, which stretch from about the 18th to the 40th degree of south latitude, are of a similar description; only the southern part, not being subject to the same periodical rains and droughts, do not experience such great or sudden changes from luxuriance to sterility; and from the barrenness, and almost the hardness, of the brick, to

the fertility of the hot-bed. Between these, the vast basin of the Maranon, stretching from about 6° or 7° north, to 18° of south latitude, is one immense and almost unbroken forest, which even extends, on the east, to the 25th degree of latitude, and contains a surface of not less than 20,000 square leagues. This middle region is the most elevated, but all are so low, that, were the sea to rise 50 fathoms above its present level, it would wash the eastern base of the Andes, and thus submerge half of South America; for the eastern point of that continent is not less than 60° of longitude from the foot of these mountains. Both the Llanos and Pampas afford pasturage for myriads of cattle and horses, and are, in fact, similar to the great steppes in the southern part of Russia. There is, indeed, scarcely a spot that deserves the name of desert in South America, except a comparatively small tract on the coast of Peru, where rain never falls[1].

North America, like the southern part of that continent, is distinguished by a great chain, which traverses it from north to south, nearly throughout its whole length, and, like the former, it is much nearer the Pacific than the Atlantic Ocean. These mountains ascend considerably above the line of perpetual snow, in the 46th degree of latitude; and are, therefore, not less than 8000 or 9000 feet in elevation. This range determines the declivities of the soil, and the courses of the rivers, over the greater part of the continent. On the western slope the descent is rapid, and the rivers, as far as they have yet been examined, descend immediately to the Pacific Ocean. On the eastern side, the country may be considered as one vast plain, till it meets the Alleghanies, not far from the shore of the Atlantic. Another ridge likewise intersects this space obliquely from north-west

[1] See Humboldt's Personal Narrative, vol. iv.

to south-east, and crosses the 50th parallel. This divides the waters that fall into the Arctic Ocean and Hudson's Bay from those which issue in the Mexican Gulf, and is accompanied by that great chain of lakes which intersects North America in this direction. The southern part of this tract may be considered as a luxuriant region, while that which declines towards the Arctic Sea is but little known; yet it appears to be low and flat, to be but slightly wooded, and enveloped in the rigours of almost perpetual winter. The isthmus which connects the two parts of the New World is merely a part of that range of mountains which extends nearly from the shores of the Arctic Sea to Cape Horn. In Mexico, about the 18th or 20th degree of latitude, these mountains spread into an extensive plateau, the mean height of which may be stated at 7000 or 8000 feet. From this elevation, as a basis, a number of volcanic peaks rise about 10,000 feet; thus reaching to an absolute elevation of 17,000 feet above the level of the neighbouring seas. The West India Islands merit the same kind of remark as has already been applied to the Oriental Archipelago.

The mind can scarcely dwell for a moment upon this brief sketch of the opposite hemispheres, slight as it is, without bringing their leading distinctions into comparison; and particularly noticing the most prominent features of the contrast. All the interior parts of both North and South America are nearer the sea than those of Asia and Africa. There are none of those sandy deserts in the New World, which cover so large a space in the Old; nor do those pestilential winds sweep over the western regions, which seldom fail to carry death in their progress, and render whole districts almost uninhabitable in the eastern parts of the globe. These tracts of burning aridity do not merely present blanks in the terrestrial surface; they oppose greater obstacles to the intercourse of nations than snow-capped mountains and stormy

seas. The slight elevation of a great part of the American surface affords a vast facility to inland navigation; and we look in vain, in the eastern hemisphere, for such openings as the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, the Maranon, or the La Plata: there is, therefore, scarcely an extensive district on the east of the Andes, that is not accessible by these great inlets, and their numerous branches. A striking difference, too, exists in the density of the original inhabitants of the two regions: in the west, the thinness of the population opposes but slight barriers to colonization; but many of the eastern regions are too thickly peopled to admit of being easily colonized, while the natives manifest an equal inaptitude with their red brethren, on the opposite side of the Atlantic, for civilizing themselves.

By turning our attention to the principal streams that intersect the earth's surface, carrying its superfluous waters to the ocean, distinguishing its declivities, and pouring health and opulence through its plains, we shall soon perceive that the largest rivers may readily be traced to a small rill, descending from some elevated region. These rills united form brooks; these collect into rivulets; and these combined form rivers, which wind along the lowest part of their respective basins till they find an outlet in the sea. These basins would, perhaps, constitute the best physical division of the earth's surface, and are often bounded by high ridges which separate them completely from each other. The size of the river is generally in proportion to the height of its source and the extent of its basin; it is also affected by the quantity of rain that falls in that region, the nature of the soil, and the degree of evaporation. Almost all large rivers are subject to a considerable variation in the quantity of their water, many of them to occasional inundations, which, in the tropical regions, are usually periodical. The only instance of this kind with which the antients

were acquainted, was the Nile; and, as its course was then unknown, they considered the phenomenon as one of the mysteries of Nature. Subsequent discoveries, however, have shown that this was by no means a solitary instance, and that these periodical risings of the tropical rivers are owing to the heavy rains that fall at certain seasons. To enter into any explanation of the causes which produce these rains, would lead us beyond the prescribed limits of the present Essay: we shall, therefore, merely give Mr. *Elphinstone*'s account of their commencement and continuance, as they are observed in India, and which, with some slight modifications, is equally applicable to other regions. 'The approach of the *monsoon* is announced by vast masses of clouds that rise from the Indian Ocean, advancing towards the north-east, gathering and thickening as they approach the land. After some threatening days, the sky assumes a troubled appearance in the evening, and the monsoon sets in generally during the night. It is attended by such a violent thunder-storm as can scarcely be imagined by those who have only witnessed the phenomenon in a temperate climate. It generally begins with violent blasts of wind, which are succeeded by floods of rain. For some hours lightning is seen without intermission; sometimes it only illuminates the sky, and shows the clouds near the horizon; at others, it discovers the distant hills, and again leaves all in darkness; when, in an instant, it re-appears in vivid and successive flashes, and exhibits the nearest objects in all the brightness of day. During all this time, the distant thunder never ceases to roll, and is only silenced by some nearer peal, which bursts on the ear with such a sudden and tremendous crash, as can scarcely fail to strike the most insensible heart with awe. At length the thunder ceases, and nothing is heard but the continued pouring of the rain, and the rushing of the rising streams.'—*Account of Cabul.*

On this subject we shall only subjoin the following list of some of the principal rivers on the globe, as compared with the *Thames*, taken for unity. From these, the approximate lengths may readily be found in English miles, by multiplying the proportional numbers by 180, which is nearly the length of the Thames, following the windings of the stream from its most distant fountain, to its junction with the sea at the Nore. When it is required to convert the proportional discharge of water into known measures, multiply the given numbers by 1800, and the result will be the number of *cubic feet* discharged in a second; or multiply them by ·4, which will give the annual discharge in *cubic miles*.

Rivers.	Propor. Length.	Area of Basin in English Miles.	Propor. Mag. of Basin.	Propor. Quant. of Water disch.
Europe.				
Thames	1	5,500	1	1
Rhine	4½	70,000	12½	13
Loire	4	48,000	8½	10
Po	2½	27,000	5	6
Elbe	4½	50,000	9	8
Vistula	4½	76,000	13½	12
Danube	9½	310,000	56	65
Dneiper	7½	230,000	36	36
Don	7½	205,000	37	38
Asia.				
Wolga	14	520,000	94	80
Euphrates	9½	230,000	42	60
Indus	11½	400,000	72½	133
Ganges	10	420,000	76	148
Kong-tse-Kiang	21½	760,000	138	258
Amur	16	900,000	164	166
Lena	13½	960,000	174	125
Oby	15	1,300,000	236	179
Africa.				
Nile	18⅓	Uncertain	90	250
America.				
St. Lawrence, includ. Lakes	22½	600,000	109	112
Mississippi	19	1,360,000	249	338
La Plata	13½	1,240,000	225	490
Maranon, not including the Araguay	22¾	2,177,000	395	1280[1]

[1] Supplement Encyc. Britannica, art. *Physical Geography*.

The theory of lakes, with the extent and division of the ocean, would naturally follow this account of rivers, did our limits admit of the delineation; but for the nature of the former, with the saltness, specific gravity, temperature, tides, and the other principal phenomena of the latter, we can only refer to Chapter III of the Introduction to the Modern Geography already mentioned.

That active and invisible fluid, denominated the *atmosphere*, which envelopes the earth, and participates in all its motions, is one of the grand elements in the economy of Nature. It is equally essential to the support of animal and vegetable life, and its phenomena are, therefore, important branches of physical geography. It is not, however, its chemical or mechanical properties, but the influence of these in the different regions, and on the varied productions of the globe, that is the proper object of delineation in the present essay. The air is a vast laboratory, in which Nature constantly performs numberless processes of analysis, solution, precipitation, and combination. It is an immense recipient, in which all the attenuated and volatilized productions of terrestrial bodies are received, agitated, mingled, combined, or separated. Considered in this view, the atmospheric air is a chaos, an indeterminate mixture of mineral vapours, vegetable and animal molecules, seeds and eggs, through which the luminous, the calorific, and the electric fluids, incessantly pass and repass in all directions. By insinuating itself into all the vacuities of bodies, the air becomes the chief agent by which Nature accomplishes many of her important changes in the material world. All terrestrial beings pay their tribute to the atmosphere, and all, in return, receive the principles necessary to life, to vegetation, and perhaps to organic existence, from its stores. The air was antiently considered as a simple fluid; but modern science has shown that it is a compound of

oxygen, azote, and carbonic acid gas, in the proportion of 27, 72, and 1. The oxygen is that part which supports animal life and combustion, by which the azote is set free to mingle again with the atmospheric fluid. But plants absorb the azote and set the oxygen free; and thus the equilibrium of the mixture is constantly preserved. The aqueous vapour is, perhaps, the most important ingredient that is mixed with the atmospheric solution; and Dr. *Thomson* thinks the quantity varies from $\frac{1}{65}$th to $\frac{1}{300}$th of the whole atmospheric mass, according to circumstances. Mr. *Dalton* is also of opinion that the medium quantity of aqueous vapour held in solution at once is about $\frac{1}{70}$th of the whole compound fluid.

The *gravity* or weight of the atmosphere is also an important property, by means of which water is raised to the height of 33 or 34 feet in a common pump, and mercury stands, near the level of the sea, from 28 to 30 inches high in the common barometer. These prove that the atmospheric pressure is nearly $14\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. on every square inch; and it has been determined by M. *Biot*, that the ratio between the weight of atmospheric air and water, at the temperature of 32° of Fahrenheit's thermometer, is as 1 to 770·3. The *elasticity* of the atmosphere is likewise another of its valuable properties, and is closely connected with that motion to which it is constantly subject; as well as with that silent and invisible process of evaporation, by which the watery treasures that float in the upper regions are supplied. When these are surcharged with accumulated vapours, they become too much condensed to be supported by the air, and copious showers descend, which diffuse joy and plenty over a world that would otherwise become barren and desolate.

The *temperature* of the atmosphere is not only intimately connected with all the preceding properties, but is that by which its influence, both on vegetable and animal life, is in a great measure regulated.

It is this, when combined with its moisture, which constitutes that state of the air which is indicated by the modern acceptation of the word climate. This is doubtless modified by various circumstances, but the two principal causes are distance from the equator and height above the level of the sea. These are general, while the other influential circumstances are merely local. The effect of elevation is strongly exemplified in ascending any of the high mountains, even in the torrid zone, where an ascent of seven or eight thousand feet in perpendicular height affords a climate similar to that of the mild countries of Europe; while five or six thousand feet above that, the climate of the polar regions is experienced; and those towering summits that rise still higher are covered with perpetual snow. Winter likewise reigns in full vigour in the Alps and Pyrenees, while the blossoms of spring adorn the midland plains of France, and even the southern regions of our own country. This beneficent compensation of Nature greatly extends the habitable regions of the torrid zone; and as the plateaux of the New World enjoy a temperate climate, and the elevated lands of central Asia extend the cold within 30° of the equator, mild and salubrious countries may yet be found in the very heart of Africa. The exposition of a country, the prevailing winds, the height and position of its mountains, with the nature of its soil and the state of its cultivation, all exercise an influence on its climate. As the general tendency of the ocean is to equalize the various temperatures of the globe, its position and vicinity must modify the climate of any particular region. This is most experienced in tropical latitudes, where a perpetual sea breeze diminishes the effect of excessive heat in the adjacent countries. As striking examples of this effect, the Polynesian Isles may be mentioned, which enjoy almost a perpetual spring; while districts equally favourable in other repects, but encompassed by extensive tracts

of land, are parched by continual drought. Nor is the intensity of heat alone modified by the vicinity of the ocean; the severity of cold is likewise mitigated by the same cause; for in high latitudes, those countries bordering upon the sea have always the mildest winters. The north-west coast of Norway presents a good example. Winds, too, have a strong tendency to equalize the temperature; and hence the prevailing winds of a country greatly affect its climate. These readily assume the character of the regions over which they pass. Those winds which constantly blow from east to west between the tropics, render the eastern side of countries colder than the western, when they sweep over the ocean, but the contrary when they traverse the land. It is upon this principle that the West Indies and the eastern shores of America are temperate, when compared with the western parts of Africa, in the same latitudes. The latter, for the same reason, are also much hotter than the eastern coasts of that continent. There is, however, less difference between the eastern and western shores of the New World, for, in arriving at the latter, the wind is cooled by sweeping over the snow-clad summits of the Andes, in its progress to the western coast.

It has long been known that the temperatures of different places under the same parallel of latitude, and equally elevated above the level of the sea, are not the same; and this takes place more particularly between the Old and New Worlds. Baron *Humboldt* has made some interesting researches on the distribution of heat over the globe; and he finds that the *Isothermal lines*, or bands of equal temperature, give the following differences between the west of Europe and the east of America:—

Latitude.	Mean in the West of Europe.	Mean in the East of America.	Difference.
30°	71°·1	66°·8	3°·3
40	63 ·1	54 ·5	8 ·6
50	50 ·8	37 ·9	12 ·9
60	40 ·0	24 ·3	16 ·6

The same philosopher states, in the *Prolegomena* to his *Nova Plantarum*, that if the mean temperature of the equator be reckoned 1, half that temperature will be found on the Old Continent at 45°, and on the New Continent at 39°. The difference between these continents, however, will be better seen in the following small Table:—

Latitude.	*Mean Temperature.* Old Continent.	New Continent.
0°	1·00	1·00
30	0·77	0·70
40	0·63	0·45
45	0·48	0·30
50	0·37	0·12

The lines which mark the equal temperatures of winter are different from those which indicate the same in summer; and the above proportions do not therefore hold good at all seasons. In treating of the geography of Plants, it is also of importance to distinguish between the mean temperature of the year and that of the summer months; but for the particulars on these and other kindred topics we must refer the reader to the laborious work already recommended to his notice.

None of the varying phenomena, perhaps, exercise a greater influence upon physical geography than the movements of the atmosphere, which we denominate *winds:* these may be classed under the three heads, of *constant, periodical,* and *variable.* The permanent winds are those which blow constantly between the tropics, and are called trade winds. They sweep over the surface of these regions with unabated and wonderful regularity at all seasons, especially over both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; though their direction is subject to some variations, according to the relative position of the Sun, and other circumstances. The trade wind is by no means an impetuous hurricane, but a steady breeze, proceeding at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour. In the Indian Ocean, this uniformity of

atmospheric motion is interrupted by the periodic winds, denominated *Monsoons*, which blow steadily for nearly half the year in one direction, and the remainder almost from the opposite point of the compass. The change from one of these directions to the other is attended with variable winds and hurricanes, which render the navigation of these seas very dangerous at such periods. To this class of periodical winds those breezes must be referred which blow from the land during one part of the natural day, and from the sea during the remainder. These are common in most of the maritime districts of low latitudes; and even extend their salutary effects, in several instances, much beyond the tropics. They are usually called land or sea breezes, as they blow from the one or the other. Beyond these limits, the winds which sweep over both the temperate and polar regions of the globe are so variable, both in force and direction, that they cannot be reduced to any regular rules. These winds may be considered as extending from the parallel of 30° to the poles; and over the whole of this space, but especially in the higher latitudes, the west and south-west winds are the most prevalent, while those from the south-east are perhaps the least common.

'Nature, who never works in vain, had numerous purposes to answer, by the perpetual agitation of this aerial fluid; the *utility* of which must be obvious to every reflecting mind. Winds purify the atmosphere by the motion they create; they dissipate the effluvia exhaled from the morasses and stagnant waters; and they raise and transport the clouds destined to fertilize the earth, by the distribution of these watery treasures. Millions of the minute seeds of vegetables, being furnished with small sails, float on the wings of the wind, and extend the empire of vegetation. Man, with an immense saving of labour, also converts it into a first mover, in giving motion to machinery which genius has invented, and industry

applied to the practical purposes of life. The ocean may justly be considered as the great *highway* of the globe; and the winds are the indefatigable agents that impel our vessels to every quarter.

The temperature and agitation of the atmosphere are the great agents of evaporation, and this, again, of the quantity of rain and dew by which different regions are watered. *Evaporation* depends upon several causes, most of which are of such a local nature, that a long series of observations is necessary for determining the mean in any given place; and even then no general conclusions can be derived from them in reference to other places, much less for distant regions. In the torrid zone, it has been stated at about 100 inches annually; in the temperate zones, and with the mean heat, it does not exceed 40 inches; and in Great Britain the average quantity is supposed not to exceed 25 inches. As evaporation and rain exercise a reciprocal influence upon each other; they have a general tendency to an agreement, in reference to their maximum quantities; but this is disturbed by a thousand local causes. Such, however, is the wise provision established by the Great Author of Nature, that the most rain falls in the hottest climates, where it is most required. The power of air to hold water in solution increases in a much greater ratio than its temperature; and therefore when two masses of air of different temperatures, fully saturated with moisture, are mixed by the perpetual agitations which constantly disturb the repose of the atmosphere, the compound is not capable of holding the whole quantity of water which the two parts contained, and a precipitation therefore takes place, in the form of rain. If the whole atmosphere were completely saturated at once, it is estimated that it would not hold more water in solution than would cover the surface of the earth to a depth of 5 inches; and consequently, as the medium quantity which annually descends on the globe may

be taken at about 40 inches, the atmospheric humidity must be several times renewed in the course of a year. M. *Cotte* found that the mean of 147 observations, made between the 12th and 60th degrees of latitude, was 31½ inches; but this is by no means the medium between the extremes: these were 112 inches at Granada, one of the West India Islands, and 15 inches at Upsal. The quantity of rain also varies greatly in mountainous and level countries. This is strongly exemplified in England, where the medium depth in the flat parts of the country may be taken at 24 inches; while at Keswick, which is situated among the mountains, the average exceeds 60 inches, and at Kendal it is nearly as much. M. Humboldt draws the following conclusion from his researches on this subject; viz.

Latitude.	Mean Temperate.	Depth.
0°	81°·50	96 inches
19	79 ·25	80
45	68 ·00	29
60	38 ·75	17

An attention to these observations will readily enable our young readers to apprehend the import of the word *climate* in its enlarged and physical sense. This, in reference to any particular region, implies the actual state of the incumbent atmosphere, as resulting from a combination of its temperature and humidity. The most obvious division of the former is into hot and cold, and of the latter into wet and dry; and therefore from a combination of these four terms we obtain four distinct climates.

1. *Hot* and *dry*, of which the sandy deserts of Africa, Arabia, and various other regions, as already specified in a preceding part of this section, afford abundant examples. There the earth is parched by the unmitigated rays of the Sun, the radiated heat becomes extreme, the plants languish, and ultimately disappear.

2. The *hot* and *humid*, which likewise occupies a

vast portion of the globe. Many of the low parts of Africa, especially near the coast, with Bengal, Mesopotamia, Guiana, and numerous other places in the torrid zone, deserve this appellation. These regions present a complete contrast to the former; for there perpetual verdure reigns, and many species of the vegetable kingdom attain a gigantic growth; but there, too, enormous reptiles infest the ground, and the exhalations from stagnant waters impart a pestilential influence to the atmosphere.

3. The *cold* and *dry* climate prevails in many parts both of Europe and Asia. Here the water is pure, and the vegetation strong, but not abundant.

4. The *cold* and *humid* climate, such as predominates in Siberia and the northern parts of America, where the atmosphere is generally loaded with fogs, and vegetation is reduced to a few solitary shrubs rising from a carpet of hardy moss.

These climates, however, do not always occur according to the full import of the terms by which they are designated; but are variously modified, as one or other of the elements preponderate. These modifications are chiefly of two distinct kinds; the one arising from the alternation of two diferent climates in the same region, the other from a greater or less prevalence of any of the four elements. In the torrid zone, only two seasons are found, the wet and the dry; the former is considered as winter, and the latter as summer; but they are in direct opposition to those seasons, as derived from the position of the Sun in the ecliptic. The temperate zones alone are distinguished by the pleasing varieties of spring and autumn, alternating with summer and winter; but it is between the 40th and 60th degrees of latitude that the succession of the seasons is the most perceptible and regular. In the arctic regions, the climate during spring and autumn is often variable and tempestuous, while in summer it is calm and serene. It is, however, difficult to reconcile the idea

of summer with large masses of snow and ice, and the sensation of almost perpetual frost; but as the Sun never sets for several weeks, and in some places for months, and produces a short period of moderate warmth, which causes a scanty vegetation to enliven the arctic shores, the term is not altogether inapplicable. But when the Sun has dissolved a great portion of the ice, the short and dubious summer expires, and frost again resumes his antient sway,—the Sun sinks below the horizon,—the darkness of a protracted winter broods impenetrably over the scene of icy desolation, except when the Moon obtrudes her feeble rays on the gloom, or the coruscations of the Aurora Borealis shed a momentary splendour over the dreary domain. As the night advances, the sleep of death seems to wrap the scene in utter ruin, save where the dread silence is momentarily broken by the tremendous growl of the polar bear, or the sudden explosion of the rending rock. At length, the life-giving Sun re-appears, but his feeble beams, for a time, rather serve to display the wide waste, than to enliven the prospect. As the god of day now ascends in his celestial path, the icy fetters in which Nature was bound dissolve, the fogs disperse, and the whole scene becomes one blaze of dazzling radiance. Short, however, is this reign of brightness, and transitory this elevation of temperature; the parting gleams of the Sun again soon quiver on the horizon,—the hollow blast sounds the requiem of the closing season,—and 'Winter rides on, in his car of storms, driven by the whirlwind, and canopied by clouds and darkness.'—Thus,

> TIME's active strength nor flags nor slumbers: TIME,
> Numbed by no frost, retarded by no storm,
> Still speeds his never-varied course, still swells
> With days and months and years his journied store.

Section III.

INFLUENCE *of* CLIMATE *on the* DISTRIBUTION *of* VEGETABLES *and* ANIMALS, *and on the* HUMAN SPECIES.

As o'er the vast creation roves
The searching eye, and scans, with eager gaze,
The beauteous robe that Sol's refulgent beam
Around fair Nature throws; or else with keen
Perceptive glance the insect tribes surveys,
And wisdom sees in their minutest forms;
Or from mid-air her eagle sight directs
To where the scaly monsters of the deep
The briny waves divide; or thence beholds
The tyrants of the forest stretched beneath
The wood's deep shade, or roaming o'er the wild
In quest of prey, thy works, thou GREAT SUPREME!
In order placed, direct the mind to THEE.

PHYSICAL Geography, like many other sciences, is more interesting in its effects than in itself, in proportion as organized and animate nature rise above unorganized matter. It is on this interesting application that we now propose to present a few remarks. In tracing the influence of the phenomena already described upon the diversified productions of the globe, the *vegetable kingdom* claims the first place. To delineate these vegetable treasures in the beauty of their forms and the variety of their ramifications, belongs more properly to the botanist than to the geographer; but their distribution over the different regions of the globe, and the general laws by which their production is modified or prevented, fall strictly within his province. In contemplating the general laws of this distribution, we shall readily perceive that heat and moisture are the two grand agents in the developement of the vegetable tribes; and we can scarcely fail to admire that wisdom, which, by the combination of these two simple elements, clothes the earth with a covering of such variegated beauty, and ministers so profusely to the convenience, the support, and the delight of man.

Each species of plant is best adapted to some particular climate, though it may be raised in others;

but in these it does not come to such perfection, and there are regions in which it ceases altogether to exist. Since elevation above the sea produces nearly the same effect on climate as distance from the equator, and the mountains of the torrid zone rise above the limits of perpetual snow, they are capable of producing almost all the plants both of the temperate and polar regions. It is between the tropics that Nature has been most prolific of heat and humidity, and it is there also that we find vegetation most varied and luxuriant. As we recede from this zone, the plants diminish in number, size, and beauty, till on the shores of the arctic ocean, and the islands enveloped by that sea, they either disappear, or are reduced to a few stunted shrubs and mosses. It is not, however, from variety of climate alone, but from this in conjunction with the nature of plants, by which the diversity is produced. Some plants require a moderate but protracted temperature, and consequently the boundaries which limit their growth depend upon the mean summer heat. A greater degree of solar influence for a shorter period is requisite for others, and they are consequently regulated more by the temperature of the warmest months than by the medium either of summer or winter.

A third limit is as obviously assigned to all those which cannot resist a considerable degree of cold by the minimum of winter temperature. A foggy or serene state of the atmosphere has likewise a great influence upon the growth of various kinds of plants, for, with many, the direct stimulus of solar heat is as essential as a certain degree of temperature. The influence of climate on the vegetable kingdom will, therefore, be best illustrated by comparing these principles with the facts which are exhibited in the history of cultivated vegetables. As the simplest mode of accomplishing this, we shall first present a few general observations, and then direct our attention to the zones or belts which are distin-

guished by their peculiar productions, till we arrive at that extreme where vegetation either becomes extinct, or pushes its hardy germs beneath eternal snows.

According to the researches of the indefatigable Baron *Humboldt*, the species of plants at present known are 44,000. Of these about 6,000 are *cryptogamous*, or such as have neither blossoms nor visible means of fructification. The remaining 38,000 are *phanerogamous* plants, or those which have visible stamina and pistilla. These are distributed in the following manner; viz., in

Europe	7,000
The temperate regions of Asia	1,500
Asia within the tropics and islands	4,500
Africa	3,000
Both the temperate regions of America	4,000
America between the tropics	13,000
New Holland and the Islands of the Pacific Ocean	5,000

The same learned author[1] gives the following proportion between the number which grow in different latitudes, and the temperature of these parallels; viz.

Latitude.	Mean Ann. Temperature.	Mean Summer Temperature.	Propor. of Plants.
0°	81°·5	82°·5	12
45	55 ·5	70 ·0	4
68	32 ·5	53 ·5	1

Within the tropics, the whole monocotyledonous plants, or those which shoot out only one lobe in the seed, are to those whose seeds split into two lobes in germinating, as one to six. Between the latitudes 36° and 52°, they are as one to four; and at the polar circle as one to two. In Germany the former plants are to the whole phanerogamous class, as two to nine; and in France, as five to twenty-two. The same proportion holds good in North America, and also, according to Mr. *Brown*, in the temperate zone of New Holland; while in Iceland and Lapland the ratio is about one to three.

[1] See the *Prolegomena* to his *Nova Genera et Species Plantarum*.

In the early part of 1816, Baron *Humboldt* read an interesting paper to the French Institute, on the distribution of *Vegetable Forms;* in which he shows that some of these forms become more common in passing from the equator towards the poles; while others, on the contrary, increase from the poles to the equator: he likewise ascertained that others attain their maximum in the temperate zones, and diminish both towards the equator and the poles. By considering the manner in which the numerous families of plants are distributed, he observed that these forms present relations under the same *isothermal lines;* so that upon any part of the globe, when we know the number of species presented by one of the great families, both the whole number of phanerogamous plants, and the number of species that constitute the other great vegetable families, may be estimated with tolerable accuracy. The difference between the plants in the central parts of Europe, and those of the same latitudes in North America, is therefore accounted for by the difference of temperature in those regions. 'These constant relations observed on the surface of the globe, on the plains from the equator to the poles, are again traced in the midst of perpetual snows on the summits of the mountains. On the Cordilleras of the torrid zone, the northern forms in general become more frequent. Hence it is that the ericineæ, the rhododendrons, and the gramineous plants, prevail at Quito, and on the summits of the Andes. On the contrary, the labiatæ, the rubiaceæ, malvaceæ, and the euphorbiaceæ, become as rare as in Lapland. The analogy, however, is not supported in the ferns, and the composite plants. The latter abound on the Andes, but the former gradually disappear above the height of 1800 fathoms. Thus the climate of the Andes resembles that of the north of Europe, only with respect to the mean annual temperature. The heat of the different seasons is very different, and exercises great

influence on the phenomena of the vegetable kingdom.'—M. *Humboldt*.

This indefatigable inquirer into the laws of Nature concludes, from his researches respecting the plants which are common to the Old and New Worlds, that many of the mosses and lichens are to be found both in the equinoctial regions of America and in Europe. In reference to other plants, he asserts that though many of them exhibit nearly the same physiognomy in both continents, three or four thousand species which were examined were entirely different. Two of the families are exceptions to the general law. In his catalogue of the plants common to the banks of the Orinoco, Germany, and the East Indies, the number does not exceed twenty-four species. From different researches conducted in other regions, it appears that the grasses and cyperaceæ, in consequence of the extreme flexibility of their organization, are the most generally diffused over the two hemispheres. The tropical plants also push their migrations much further towards the south than they do to the north. The fern-trees, which in Asia are rarely found beyond the tropic of Cancer, are met with in Van Diemen's Land, and have even been seen in Dusky Bay, in New Zealand. Other forms have also been observed, in the New World, nearly in the middle of the southern temperate zone.

'The number of lofty trees in the New Continent is much greater than in Europe. In North America, there are one hundred and thirty-seven species whose trunks exceed the height of thirty feet, while in Europe scarcely forty-five species attain that height. No firs are to be found in the mountains of South America, between the tropics, though they are very numerous in North America. In Lapland, the fir grows to the height of sixty feet, but at the Straits of Magellan, and Staaten's Land, much nearer the equator, scarcely any trees grow. In the temperate zones, the same species of plants are frequently

found growing together in clusters; but this is very seldom the case in the torrid zone, where the woods are formed of a great variety of trees in nearly equal proportions, and uniformly intermixed with each other.'

In the tropical regions of America, the plantain or banana *(plantano harton)* furnishes a principal article of food to the inhabitants, and requires a mean annual temperature of from 73° to 82° of Fahrenheit's scale to bring it to maturity. It, therefore, extends to about 27° on each side of the equator; but even below 10° of latitude its fruit does not ripen at a greater altitude than 500 toises, or 3200 feet above the level of the sea. If we consider the continents without reference to their respective islands, we may estimate that this planet occupies a zone of 54° in breadth, extending on both sides of the equator, and including about four-fifths of Africa, one-sixth of Asia, and one-third of America, but no part of Europe. Next to this, the sugar cane (*saccharum officinarum*) requires the most heat, and has a range nearly the same as that of the banana. This plant spreads over a space of about 30° on each side of the equator in the western hemisphere; for though the summer heat is sufficient for a few degrees further, the rigour of the winter destroys the plant. In the Old World it is cultivated with advantage as far as 36°, where the mean annual temperature is about 67°. It also flourishes on the table land of Mexico, at an elevation of 900 toises, and, in the mild valley of Quito, at a much greater height. Thus the region of the sugar cane includes the whole of Africa and the southern extremity of Europe, with nearly one-third of Asia, and two-fifths of America. The cotton plant *(gossypium)* extends still farther than the sugar cane, and thrives wherever the mean summer temperature reaches 74°, and where that of the winter does not fall below 46°. It is cultivated in America

as high as the thirty-seventh parallel; in Europe to the fortieth, and in Asia, near Astracan, to the forty-sixth. It also climbs the Cordilleras higher than the sugar cane.

As the olive *(olea)* is equally injured by either extreme of temperature, its climate occupies a belt on each side of the equator. In the Old World this extends from about the thirty-fifth to the forty-fourth parallel, but the belt is very narrow in the New World. It succeeds when the mean summer heat reaches 71°, and that of the coldest month is not less than 42°. This last condition excludes all the North American continent beyond the thirty-fourth degree, though, in Europe, it is found more than 10° further north. Penetrating still deeper into the temperate zones, we meet with the vine (*vitis*), which flourishes where the mean annual heat is between fifty and sixty degrees, or even less, provided that of winter is not below 33°, and, of summer, not less than 67° or 68°. These conditions are realized in several places in Europe as high as the fiftieth parallel; but it is not generally cultivated with advantage beyond the forty-eighth. In North America, its limits are about 10° lower. The best wines of the old continent are produced between 36° and 48°. The region of the vine may, therefore, be considered as embracing a zone in each hemisphere from about 30° to 48° in the old continent, and from about 30° to 40° in the new. This consequently embraces about one-sixth of America, one-third of Europe, two-sevenths of Asia, and one-tenth of Africa.

To the above plants succeed those productions which serve for the ordinary sustenance of man; and, of all these, *maize* and *potatoes* are the most extensively cultivated. Maize bears any temperature above 68° or 70° of summer heat, but, in regions where that temperature is not realized, it does not ripen. Its culture, therefore, extends from the

equator to about 48° in America and eastern Asia, and to more than 50° in Europe. It is most extensively cultivated in its native soil, the New World, where it forms the chief article of sustenance for both man and domestic animals from La Plata to the Canadian Lakes. It comes to maturity in four or five months from the time of being sown, and is consequently well adapted to the short and warm summers of these regions. In consequence of the adaptation of this grain to all the warmer climates of the globe, it spreads over about five-eighths of America, three-sevenths of Europe, the whole of Africa, and three-fifths of Asia. This plant also flourishes on the plains of Mexico, and climbs the flanks of the Andes, in other parts, to the height of 8000 or 9000 feet. The potatoe is still more widely diffused, for its culture now reaches from the southern extremity of Africa to Labrador, Iceland, and Lapland. The *Cerealia* (wheat, rye, barley, and oats), articles so essential in the economy of civilized life, likewise spread over a large portion of the globe, and thrive wherever the medium summer heat exceeds 53°; but none of them will flourish in the low grounds of the torrid zone. From the thirtieth to the sixtieth degree of latitude may, therefore, be considered as the principal region of these kinds of grain, though barley and oats reach nearly 70° in some of the most favourable parts of Lapland. Thus, the cerealia include about five-sixths of Europe, one-tenth of Africa, three-fifths of Asia, and one-fourth of America. These proportions, however, are increased by taking elevation into the account; for they ascend the Alps, in latitude 46°, to the height of about 3500 feet above the level of the sea; on Caucasus, in latitude 42°, barley and oats are found 6500 feet in height; and, on the Cordilleras, under the equator, the proper climate of the cerealia, is from nearly 5000 to more than 10,000 feet in height.

Almost all regions of the globe are adapted to the growth of wood, except those of high latitudes or great elevation. This may be considered as extending to about 60° in America, to 65° in Asia, and 70° in some parts of Europe. In presenting a brief summary of the regular gradation which takes place from the majestic species of vegetables found on the sultry regions of the torrid zone to the last semblance of a plant on the borders of perpetual snow, it will be sufficient to say, that cassava, cacao, maize, plantains, indigo, sugar, cotton, and coffee, are produced from the level of the sea to an elevation of 5000 feet. Both cotton and coffee extend considerably above this, and sugar is even cultivated in some parts of the valley of Quito.

All sorts of European grain, with the oak, and various other kinds of forest trees, grow best at an elevation above the sea of between 6000 and 9000 feet: beyond this limit, large trees of all kinds begin to disappear, but some dwarf pines rise to 13,000 feet.

The grasses clothe the surface from 13,000 to 15,000 feet. The only plant which appears above this altitude is the lichen, which covers the rocks, and seems to push its hardy front beneath the snow.

In reference to the vegetation of Africa, Mr. Von Buch, who carefully examined the botany of the island of Teneriffe, one of the most favourable situations, distinguishes—

	Toises.
1*st*, The region of African forms, extending in altitude from	0 to 200
2*d*, The region of vines and grain, from	200 to 430
3*d*, The region of laurels (*regio sylvatica*), reaching from	430 to 680
4*th*, The region of *pinus canariensis*, from	680 to 980
5*th*, The region of the *retama*, *spartium nubigenum*, from	980 to 1730

The retama is found only in Teneriffe, and its inferior limit is 1000 toises. The mountains of all the other islands, except Palma, are not high enough to enter this limit; and the summit of the Pico de lo Muchacha, in Palma, is composed entirely of naked and barren rocks. The gramineous plants are very rare, and they do not form a particular zone.

'It is the *torrid zone* that possesses the vegetable treasures which we in vain wish to naturalize in other regions. There, fruits the most succulent, and aromatics the most pleasing, are produced. There, vegetation manifests more power, variety, and brilliancy, than in the temperate climes; and there, too, the intense beams of the Sun raise the plant into a shrub, and the shrub into a tree. It is not merely a simple sap that circulates in the vessels of vegetables, but balsams, gums, and juices, which excite the most sluggish appetite, and please the most delicate taste, or afford antidotes to the maladies that assail afflicted humanity. On these regions, therefore, Nature has bestowed, in boundless profusion, the choicest of those plants which contribute to the sustenance, administer to the convenience, or conduce to the delicacies of life; while, in consequence of their elevated districts, she has not, altogether, withheld the productions of temperate climes. The multiplicity and variety of the vegetable tribes are so great as to preclude any enumeration; while the abundance of the verdure, and the beauty of the blossoms, are such as never fail to astonish and delight the observer.'

Nor is this luxuriance confined to the vegetable kingdom alone; animated Nature presents a variety equally obvious, and an adaptation to particular climes no less striking. Some animals are so entirely fitted to the sultry regions, that their very existence is endangered by being removed into higher latitudes; while others are so adapted to the intense cold of the polar regions, that the heat of the torrid, and the

mildness of the temperate zones prove equally fatal. The species of animals are so numerous, and their distribution a theme so copious, that we must confine ourselves to the developement of a few general ideas.

The air, the earth, and the waters, teem with animated beings, and their number is such as almost to overwhelm the strongest imagination. The grandeur and magnificence of the vegetable creation are restricted to those parts of the torrid regions where warmth and moisture abound; and, though this is generally the case with the animal kingdom, some of the most gigantic of the species inhabit the seas round the Pole. Some of the class *vermes*, of Linnæus, are diffused over a great part of the globe, but many are restricted to particular regions. The zoophites, and others of that nature, are chiefly confined to the warm climates, where both the air and the water are heated by the rays of an almost vertical Sun. Too little, however, is yet known respecting these beings, which seem to form the link between vegetable and animal life, to allow of any correct distribution being assigned. Numerous kinds of marine insects appear to be too insignificant to be of importance in the general economy of nature; but the mighty effects which are produced by their countless myriads are truly astonishing. Amongst these wonders of the deep, nothing is more surprising than the rocks, and even islands, of coral, which are found in such immense masses in the tropical regions of the Pacific Ocean, and some other seas. The immense island of New Holland is almost surrounded by reefs of this kind; and, in reference to the barrier on its eastern coast, Captain Flinders says, 'We sought fourteen days and sailed more than 500 miles, before a passage could be found through them out to sea.' Though the vast works of these insects are principally confined to the tropical parts of the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, they are not wholly

unknown in the Mediterranean, for good coral is found near its southern shore. Immense myriads of marine insects likewise abound in other seas, and even in the Arctic Ocean, respecting which little is yet known.

The habits of this class of animated beings seem to attach them closely to the mineral kingdom, while the insects which people the air, or dwell on the surface of the ground, manifest an equal affinity with the vegetable world. As it is in the equinoctial regions that vegetation attains its greatest vigour and luxuriance, so it is there also that the insect tribes acquire their maximum power and brilliancy. The forests of this zone are peopled with such multitudes, and of hues so bright, that the whole sometimes appears to be one animated mass, and not unfrequently present to the nocturnal traveller the idea of one unbounded sheet of fire. In the midst of this luxuriance of animal and vegetable life, the insects are formed on a scale of magnitude, of which the inhabitants of higher latitudes can form but faint conceptions; but it is from their countless millions alone that they frequently reign the mighty tyrants of the wide domain. In those sultry climes, locusts, and even flies, sometimes assemble in such vast swarms, and move in such close phalanx, that they not only darken the Sun by their flight, but so completely destroy vegetation in the districts through which they pass, that they drive the inhabitants before them like a desolating tempest. Nor is this annoyance wholly confined to these tropical districts: wherever heat and moisture abound, even for a short period, there the insect tribes burst into life with astonishing rapidity, and at once assume a formidable aspect, or become a distressing scourge. On the wilds of Lapland[1], the plains of Hindostan, or the

[1] See Dr. Clarke's Travels in Scandinavia.

shores of the Mexican Gulf, the mosquitoes are, at certain times, almost an equal annoyance to man.

It is among the swamps of the tropical regions, however, that the reptile species attain their utmost magnitude, and crush the large animals in their enormous folds. The *boa constrictor* is there to be seen stretched on the ground like the mast of a ship; but this, and several of the other larger kinds, are not armed with that destructive poison, in which the terrors of most of the smaller consists. In passing from the Equator to the Poles, reptiles diminish both in number and size, till they cease altogether in the frozen regions. It is also amidst the stagnant waters of the same zone that the lizard tribes assume their most gigantic forms; and there all the great rivers abound with the crocodile, the alligator, and the caymon, whose open jaws constitute a living sepulchre, in which even man is sometimes entombed. The seas of this zone are likewise characterized by peculiar species of *fish*. That upon which Nature has bestowed the power of either darting through the deep, or ascending into the air, is indigenous to the Equinoctial Seas, as well as many others of the most varied and brilliant colours. It is there, too, that the shark attains his greatest ferocity; but it is not in these seas alone that the finny tribes excel in magnitude, as well as in beauty; for the great Leviathan of the deep rolls his vast bulk amidst the icebergs of the Polar Seas. Some kinds of fish spend the whole period of their existence on, or very near the spot which gave them birth, while others are considered as migratory, and as traversing the ocean periodically to vast distances from their original abodes. The herring presents an example of this class, and has long been thought to breed its myriads within the Arctic Circle, and annually to visit more temperate climes. This migration is thus depicted by

the poet, who founds his description upon the venerated authority of Mr. *Pennant*[1].

Thus from Zembla's deep
On warmer climes, when *herring* armies pour
The living tide of plenty; to the Sun
With gold, and green, and azure, many a league,
When Ocean glitters like a field of gems,
Gay as the bow of Heaven, and burns by night
In every billow with phosphoric fire;
Their march innumerable foes attend. Behold,
In light-winged squadrons, gulls of every name,
Screaming discordant, o'er the surface hang,
And ceaseless stoop for prey. Lo! gannets huge,
And ospreys, plunging from their cloudy height
With leaden fall precipitate, the waves
Cleave with deep dashing breast, and labouring rise,
Talons and beak o'erloaded: while beneath
Monsters marine with sanguine inroad gore
The looser files; and, floating vast, the whale
Insatiate lops the impenetrable host;
Unbars his mighty jaws, close-crowded troops
Ingulfs at once, and clasps the gates of death.

GISBORNE.

It should, however, be remarked, that the difficulty of accounting for these long voyages, as well as for the power of accomplishing them with so much accuracy, has induced some naturalists to think that herrings find their general support in deep water, and only rise to the surface at certain seasons, when either impelled by the want of sustenance, or other natural circumstances.

Passing from fish to *Birds*, we readily observe that Nature has endowed this part of her works with a power of motion resembling that of the insect race; but they obviously rise higher in the scale of being, and are dignified with greater freedom and energy. The peculiar construction of birds seems to assign them the whole atmosphere as their legitimate domain; but the food which Nature has adapted to their wants, and distributed over peculiar regions,

[1] See Arctic Zoology, and Tour in Scotland.

with the plumage by which they are adorned, evidently show that physical circumstances controul the tenants of the air, as well as those of the earth and the sea. Even those which are possessed of the greatest power, and are capable of ranging through almost illimitable space, are restricted either by necessity or attachment. 'The condor, the king of the vultures, which inhabits the cloud-capped peaks of the Cordilleras of Peru, hovers above the summit of Chimborazo, and darts his piercing eye from an immense distance upon the sea of vapours that floats beneath; but he seldom leaves his native abode, and never visits the lower tracts of the same continent. The great eagle haunts the higher Alps, which he scarcely ever quits; but the osprey, or sea eagle, is more generally spread over the globe. Numerous species of the parrot kind are confined to the East Indies, and the Archipelago on the south-east of Asia; while the celebrated birds of paradise inhabit a still narrower region, being found in New Guinea and the neighbouring islands alone.' It has been remarked, that the feathered tribes of the torrid zone are distinguished by the brilliancy of their plumage, but are deficient in those melodious strains which cause the groves of more temperate climes to resound with harmony. The most favourable region for these vocal songsters is, perhaps, from the 30th to the 60th degree of latitude. One of the most remarkable circumstances in the history of birds, is their annual migrations. The swallow, the stork, the crane, and several other species, on the approach of winter, abandon the northern and central countries of Europe, and either retire towards its southern extremities, or pass over into Africa. Others proceed, about the same time, from the northern districts towards the central countries. The amazing instinct with which these migrations are conducted is manifested by the circumstance, that some of the

birds (swallows and storks, for instance) will frequently return, with the vernal season, to the very same nests which they constructed the preceding year. This migratory instinct is also strongly evinced in that singular bird the *puffin*, which annually visits some of the smaller islands off the west coast of Britain, in the breeding season; particularly the Calf of Man, and the small island of Priestholme near the shore of Anglesea[1]. The Arctic regions are as distinctly marked by their appropriate species of birds, as the Equinoctial climes; and there is, perhaps, not a large maritime tract on the globe of which the same may not be affirmed.

Quadrupeds form a class of beings still more perfect in their formation, and in closer alliance with man; whom the great Author of Nature has placed at the head of this sublunary creation. In these, too, the effects of climate and local circumstances are still more obvious than in the other classes. Though the animals of the torrid zone, in general, present a contrast with those of the more genial climes, 'There are certain animals which thrive almost equally in all zones, till the severity of the Polar frost chills them, or the hardened ground refuses them subsistence. In this class, beneficent Nature has placed all those whose services, in a domesticated state, are most useful to man. These are the horse, the ox, the sheep, the hog, the goat, the dog, and the cat. Others may be added, in the wide diffusion of which, Nature cannot be considered as having been so bounteous; among these are the fox, the hare, the rabbit, the stag, the rat, and the mouse. These common features, however, leave room for others, in which the different climates are widely distinguished from each other.' Size, or ferocity, in general, characterizes the animals of the torrid zone. The cumbrous elephant dwells in the depths of its

[1] See T. T. for 1814, page 215.

antient forests; while the rhinoceros and the hippopotamus roll their huge bulks along the banks of its largest rivers. Others, that are less gigantic in form and more ferocious in disposition, the lion, the tiger, the panther, the ounce, and the hyæna, extend but little beyond the equinoctial regions. This zone also produces animals as remarkable for their beauty and gentleness, as the others are for their majesty and terror. Such are the antelope, the zebra, the cameleopard, and others. A still more striking mark of the beneficence of Providence is visible in the peculiar formation of the camel and dromedary in the Old World, with the lama and the vicuna in the New, and without which vast regions would be altogether impassable. The giraffe and the quagga, we believe, are restricted to the southern regions of Africa.

As we depart from the torrid zone, the wild animals diminish in size, and improve in disposition. The wolf and the boar are the chief beasts of prey in temperate climes; but even these will not bear a comparison with the mighty tyrants of the Asiatic and African deserts. It is, however, in the temperate zones that domestic animals attain their greatest perfection. The *horse* was first introduced into the New World by the Europeans, and is now to be found almost from one extremity to the other. In Europe, this noble animal generally approaches the polar circle, but in Asia it is seldom to be met with beyond the 64th parallel. The ass cannot endure cold so well as the horse, and is not common beyond the 54th degree of latitude; its most favourable climate is from the 20th to the 40th parallel, where it is large and beautiful, swift and docile. As we approach the 60th degree of latitude, the ox, the sheep, and the most valuable domestic animals, become stunted in their growth, and soon afterwards give place altogether to a new creation. It is in these cold regions that the *reindeer* unites the pro-

perties of all the other domestic animals of more temperate countries. They abound, too, with the elk, the sable, the ermine, the marten, the arctic fox, and various other species, which Nature has guarded against the intensity of the cold by a thick covering of fur, and which constitutes a valuable article of luxury in the most effeminate courts; thus the very means that have been bountifully provided for their protection from the elements, is converted into the cause of their ceaseless persecution by unsparing man. Still nearer the pole, the arctic bear reigns the mighty tyrant of the frozen solitude. The arctic fox is so entirely fitted to those cold regions, that he cannot exist south of the 60th parallel.

The *dog*, as the faithful ally of man, is more widely spread over the globe than any other animal; and is to be found in all regions, where man has reared his palace or his hut, and, perhaps, in a wild state, where human foot has never yet left its impress. The effects of climate upon the dog are, however, very obvious. Towards the equator, as well as in approaching the poles, he loses his voice, and his bark is changed into a kind of growl, often of the most harsh and disagreeable kind. The cat has also been widely diffused through the medium of navigation; and the fox, which is nearly allied to the dog, is also to be found in the most distant and dissimilar regions. They abound in Nova Zembla, and all the shores and islands of the Arctic Ocean, in Egypt, in Bengal, in Guinea, and from the northern limits of the New World to the Straits of Magellan.

'A general view of the animal kingdom shows that there is scarcely any extensive tract on the globe that has not a *Zoology*, as well as a *Flora*, of its own. The Zoology of the marshy plains and wide-spread savannas of the torrid zone is altogether different from that of the stupendous mountains which pierce the clouds in the same regions. Other species bound from rock to rock, and delight in the highest

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summits of the temperate climes; while those that inhabit the frozen plains, range over the pine-clad mountains, or stalk amidst the perpetual snows of the arctic regions, are totally distinct from them all. Those that are indigenous to the New World are wholly different from those of the Old Continent. M. *Humboldt* observes, in a paper read to the French Institute, in February 1816, that it has long been known that no quadruped, no terrestrial bird, and, as appears from the researches of M. *Latreille*, al-almost no insect, is common to the two Worlds. M. *Cuvier* is convinced, by accurate inquiries, that this rule applies even to reptiles. He has ascertained that the true boa constrictor is peculiar to America, and that the boas of the Old Continent are pytons. With respect to the regions beyond the tropics, *Buffon* has greatly multiplied the animals which he conceived to be common to America, to Europe, and the north of Asia. The bison, the stag, and the goat of America, with the rabbit, musk rat, bear, &c. are species entirely distinct from those of Europe. There remain only the glutton, the wolf, the white bear, the red fox, and perhaps the elau, which are not sufficiently distinct to be considered as specific[1].'

While the range of most of the inferior animals is confined to a single region, MAN can exist, with comparative ease, in all countries. His abode is found from the frozen mountains of Greenland to the burning deserts of Sahara; and even the vicissitudes of heat and cold, which prove fatal to many other orders of animated beings, are endured by man without any very injurious effects. He can equally fortify himself against the rigours of intense cold, and the almost scorching rays of a vertical Sun. Those who inhabit the *Oasis*, or cross the sandy deserts, of Africa and Arabia, sometimes experience

[1] *Myers's Geography*, vol. i, p. clvi.

a degree of heat which causes spirits of wine to boil, and therefore afford illustrative examples of the one extreme; while Captain Parry and the arctic navigators supply a recent and striking instance of the other. When they wintered in Melville Island, the mercury in the thermometer sunk, in the early part of 1820, to 55° below zero; yet even this intensity was not attended with any serious consequences; and exercise was taken in the open air whenever the wind and snow permitted. What, however, is still more remarkable, and proves the extreme pliability of the human frame in reference to the power of sustaining great and rapid changes of temperature, is that, on passing from the cabin to the open air, these men experienced a difference of from 80° to 100°, and sometimes 120°, in less than a minute. Though exposed to this for some months, not a single inflammatory complaint, beyond a common cold, occurred during the whole period.

It must not, however, be inferred, from his capability of bearing the temperature of all climates, that man is every where the same, either in his external appearance, or the developement of his mental faculties. The difference in both these respects, indeed, is so great, that some philosophers have been induced to think that all mankind have not sprung from the same common parents. Striking and permanent, however, as the dissimilitude undoubtedly is between the Negro of Guinea, the native of Britain, the Esquimaux of Labrador, and the Patagonian of Cape Horn, it is sufficiently accounted for by the long continued operation of physical and moral causes: but the former alone fall within the scope of the present Essay.

Man is so widely diffused, that Spitzbergen, and Nova Zembla in the north, with the Falkland Islands, New South Shetland, Kergueland's Land, and a few other tracts in the Southern Ocean, are the only extensive countries which are known to be absolutely

destitute of inhabitants. From the variety of climates and situations in which man is placed, it is therefore evident that situation and local circumstances must affect not only his physical conformation, but his habits and manners, as well as his mental powers and moral perceptions. The records of antient history, and the testimony of modern observation, equally show the influence of these causes on both the characters and pursuits of nations during the early stages of society; and though, in more advanced periods, their influence may be counteracted, it is not destroyed, by the operation of moral causes.

When the reasoning powers of man began to expand, and to seek objects for their employment beyond the mere gratification of his daily wants, few subjects were better adapted to attract his attention than the varieties which presented themselves in the human race. In later stages of society, philosophers have endeavoured to analyze and class these diversities, so as to ascertain the primary types to which the other varieties may be referred. One of the best qualified for the task was M. Blumenbach[1], who applied his profound knowledge of physiology to the research. He has resolved the whole human species into the following five primary classes:—

1. The *Caucasian* race. The distinguishing characters of these are, the skin white, the cheeks red, the hair brown, sometimes verging towards yellow or black, but always soft, long, and undulating; the head is symmetrical, and rather globular; the forehead moderately expanded, the cheek bones narrow, the face oval, the nose narrow and slightly aquiline, the lips turned gently out, the chin round, and the facial angle large. In this class are included all the Europeans except the Finns, Samoieds, and Lap-

[1] See J. F. Blumenbach, *de Generis Humani Varietate Nativa Dissertatio.*

landers; with the people of Northern Africa, and those of Western Asia, as far as the Oby on the north, the Caspian in the centre, and the Ganges on the south.

2. The *Mongolians*, who have the skin olive, the hair black, straight and strong, the head almost square, the cheek-bones prominent, and the face broad and flat. Its parts are less distinct than in the preceding class; the eye-brows are a little arched, the space between them flat, the aperture of the eye-lids small, and the nose rather diminutive and flat. Under this class are ranked all the remaining Asiatics, except the Malays, with the Finns, the Samoieds, the Laplanders, the Greenlanders, and the Esquimaux.

3. The *Ethiopian* variety. In these the skin is black, the hair black and crisp, the head laterally compressed, the forehead inclining backwards, the cheek-bones projecting forwards, the nose flat, and not well defined from the cheeks, the lips thick, the chin receding, the jaws lengthened forwards, and the lower part of the face prominent. This class includes all the African nations, except those belonging to the Caucasian race.

4. The *American* race; which are characterised by the skin of a copper colour, hair black, stiff, and straight; the forehead short, the cheek-bones and face broad, the eyes sunk, and the nose flat, but prominent. This division embraces all the tribes found in the New World, except the Esquimaux, who are obviously distinct from all the others.

5. The *Malays*. In these the skin is tawney, the hair abundant, black, soft, and curled; the head rather narrow, and the forehead slightly arched; the parietal bones prominent, but not the cheek-bones; the nose full, broad, and thick at the extremity; the mouth large, the lower part of the face projecting, but the profile more distinct than that of the Ethiopian. This variety is diffused over a wide

space of the globe, and includes the inhabitants of Malacca, the Marian, Philippine, and the Molucca Islands, with the Oriental Archipelago, and the Polynesian Isles.

It should be remarked, however, that only some particular tribes, or parts of these respective divisions, have these characteristics strongly marked. All of them are more or less intermixed, and they are frequently blended with each other by almost insensible degrees.

It is sufficient to take a retrospective glance at the early history of communities, and the dawn of society, to be convinced of the great influence which situation and local scenery must have had upon the character and pursuits of nations. The earliest bodies of men were collected on the banks of rivers, and it was thence that the arts, and, with them, the first germs of civilization, were diffused over other regions. Egygt was one of those places in which population was early accumulated; and while the inundations of the Nile conferred a perpetual fertility on the soil, it produced disasters which called forth the ingenuity of the inhabitants, in repairing their effects or guarding against their recurrence. This facilitated the means of agriculture and internal commerce; and it was thus that the basin of the Nile became the mother of the arts and the cradle of the sciences. If we examine the means by which Tyre became the 'Queen of the Ocean,' we shall readily perceive the influence which the nature and position of the country had in producing this effect, by first impelling the inhabitants in quest of foreign resources, and then facilitating their acquisition. A similar connexion may likewise be traced in numerous other instances; but we shall only specify the following, in the language of M. *Chateaubriand*:—'The Mediterranean, placed in the centre of the civilized world, studded with smiling islands, and washing shores planted with the myrtle, the

palm, and the olive, instantly reminds the spectator of the sea which gave birth to Apollo, to the Nereids, and to Venus; while the Ocean, agitated by tempests, and surrounded by unknown regions, was well adapted to be the cradle of the phantoms of Scandinavia.'

Besides the effect of what may be considered as the locality of situation, that of *climate* is obviously influential in modifying both the external appearance and intellectual powers of the human species. In accomplishing this, it acts both directly and indirectly. One of the most obvious of these effects is, that extreme heat darkens the skin and swells the features; which is strongly evinced by the change which the Portuguese and other settlers have undergone, who have remained long in hot countries. The descendants of the early colonies in Africa, for instance, are now nearly assimilated to the natives; and though intermarriages with the latter may have increased the effect, much is certainly due to climate alone. 'One of the most striking illustrations of the assimilating powers of climate is afforded in the case of the Jews. This tribe is scattered over the whole face of the earth, and though naturalized in every soil, it is still preserved distinct from the rest of mankind. The Jews, on account of the prejudices of religion, and other causes, never intermarry with any but their own sect: if, therefore, they are assimilated to the people among whom they reside, this cannot be ascribed to mixture of races. Yet it is found that the English Jew is white, the Portuguese brown, the American olive, and the Egyptian swarthy; so that there are, in fact, as many species of Jews as there are countries in which they reside—a diversity which can scarcely be accounted for on any other cause than the influence of climate[1].'

[1] Scott's *Inquiry into the Causes of the Diversity of the Human Character.*

The effects of climate on the character of man, however, are less obvious than those on his external appearance; but it has a direct influence on the strength or weakness of the human constitution. The people of hot countries are not so robust as those of more temperate regions. Extreme heat relaxes the muscular fibres, deranges the natural secretions, and enervates the whole system. It is not, therefore, in torrid climes that the most vigorous race of men are either expected or found. Climate also acts immediately upon the human character as it respects indolence or activity. Great heat always produces languor and aversion to labour; and intense cold, by benumbing the faculties, is followed by nearly the same effect. In hot countries, therefore, rest and repose are among the greatest enjoyments—shady groves and refreshing fountains among the most desired luxuries. During a great part of the day, the influence of the sun renders all active exertion nearly insupportable; and all who are not impelled into action by necessity, pass this portion of their time in a kind of listless inactivity. It is thus that the Mussulman, with his pipe, dreams away his existence, little troubled by the past, and less solicitous for the future. It is also nearly in the same state of inaction that the Laplander and the Esquimaux, each wrapped in his reindeer skin, huddles round the stove or the lamp, and endeavours to doze away the protracted period of his long night.

O favoured race! whom partial Heav'n designed
To free from all the cares that vex mankind!
In life's mad scene, while wayward nations join,
One silent corner of the world is thine;
From busy toil, from raging passions free,
And war, dire stain of lapsed humanity!

DR. SHAW.

One of the most obvious of the indirect effects which climate has upon society, is exhibited in the

condition of its females. The age at which they are married in hot countries, brings childhood and maternity into such close contact, that reason is incapable of maintaining that empire which love had acquired. The charms of youth are of short duration, and the compact, in which the mental powers have no share, is easily dissolved. The wife then sinks into the slave, and makes way for a more youthful rival. Women, therefore, in hot climates, are objects of ardent passion, but not of esteem; and the character of the husband is, in consequence, lost in that of the tyrant. This influence is also manifested in the amusements of society. In hot countries the necessaries of life are obtained with comparatively little trouble; and the indolence which this, in conjunction with the temperature, produces, gives a distinctive character to all their pleasures. This is evinced in their music and poetry, as compared with those of temperate regions: a soft languor characterizes the one, and a high tone of instinctive feeling pervades the other. Springing from different origins, and devoted to different purposes, they call different faculties into exercise; the one enervates, the other elevates, the soul. The same effect of climate may be traced in the laws and governments of states; for where either the body or mind is incapable of much exertion, it is far easier to yield implicit obedience to the will of another, than to act with energy and firmness in maintaining the rights of the many against the usurpations of the few. Activity and moderate exertion are the two great agents which, by imparting health and vigour to the body, give power and elasticity to the mind. In this respect, the temperate regions enjoy an eminent advantage over those where the energy of man is dissipated by the intensity, or paralysed by the feebleness, of the solar rays.

If climate thus modifies the external appearance of man, and affects the strength of his constitution,

it is reasonable to conclude that it must influence the duration of his existence; but the correct observations which have yet been made on this subject are not sufficient to warrant any general conclusions. Besides, the subject itself is so complex, as to render the effect produced by the influence of climate alone very difficult to ascertain. In general, the mean duration of human life is between thirty and forty years, but subject to considerable variation, not only in different countries, but in different parts of the same country. According to the last parish register returns for England and Wales, the average duration of life in South Britain is more, between fifty and sixty years. Supposing the whole population of the globe to be seven hundred millions, and the deaths, on an average, one in thirty-three annually, we shall have the following results:—

	Persons die.
In a year	21,212,121
In a day	58,129
In an hour	2,421
In a minute	40

Beneath such a statement, how impressive is the motto that contains the *history* of the general mass,—

'THEY WERE, AND ARE NOT!'

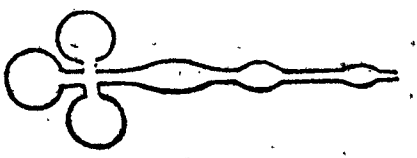
We have already mentioned the intercourse which took place between the late Northern Expedition and a party of Esquimaux, who had never before seen any Europeans, and we shall now subjoin such particulars as have transpired respecting those tribes, who live on the very confines of human existence, for it certainly is not easy to conceive how life could be supported in climes and dwellings more *frigid*, or upon food more coarse and precarious. We have the more pleasure in doing this, as, from their having had no previous intercourse with the other classes of

mankind, their manners and customs were quite original. For the following information we acknowledge ourselves indebted to the *Literary Gazette*, the Editor of which has evinced a laudable zeal in gratifying the public with all that could be collected from those hardy men, who have braved successive seasons amidst the horrific scenes of almost eternal frost.

The Esquimaux are represented as peaceable and good-natured; but neither stupid, nor eminent for feeling or intelligence. The first tribe lived together on terms of perfect liberty and equality; but in the second there was an Angekok, or conjuror, who exercised over them a certain degree of influence and authority. No signs of the worship of a Supreme Being could be discovered among them, and they do not even appear to have a perfect idea of ONE; nor have they apparently any religious rites at either marriages or funerals. An Esquimaux bespeaks his wife while she is a child, and when she is of marriageable age she is brought home to him, and a feast is made on the occasion. Their *funerals* are equally simple: in winter, the corpse is merely covered with snow; in summer, a shallow trench is dug, in which it is deposited, and covered with two or three flat stones, which complete the rude sepulchre. They are careful, however, not to allow the stones, or other weighty matter, to rest on the body; and seem to think that even after death it may be sensible of the oppression. They appear to have some crude notions of a future state; but all their ideas on this subject are so blended with superstition, that they hardly deserve to be noticed. The children are rarely more than two, three, or four in a family; though six grown-up brothers and sisters were met with. They live to a good age. Many were above sixty years old, and in one case the great-grandmother of a child of seven or eight years

was a healthy old woman, at the head of four generations. The average stature of the males is about 5 feet, 4, 5, or 6 inches; and none exceeded 5 ft. 10 inches. Their colour is a dirty yellowish white, and their proportions by no means robust.

Their *snow-houses* are curiously constructed, and in shape resembling three immense beehives grouped together, and entered by one long passage by the three families to whom they belong, as in the following *figure.*



A trefoil affords a tolerable idea of one of these groups. They are about 9 feet in diameter, and 7 or 8 feet in height. The passage is about 20 feet in length, and so low that they creep along nearly on all-fours, to reach the hut. This is ingeniously contrived to exclude the cold air, which it does effectually, though widened in parts for lodging the dogs belonging to the several households, and which are stationed in the last sort of anti-chamber, before the entrances turn off right and left to the two nearest huts. The huts themselves are made entirely of square blocks of solid snow, with a larger key-block at the top of the rotunda. The window is a piece of flat transparent ice. Round the interior a mound of the same material as the walls is raised, upon which the skins of animals are thrown for seats and beds: these last are also made of a plant, spread on the floor. The houses are without any artificial warmth, except what is produced by a sort of oil lamp, in which they use pieces of dry moss for wicks.

In the winter of 1822-3, native dwellings or huts constructed of *bones* were also seen. The Esqui-

maux often eat flesh in a raw state; but it is sometimes cooked, and the women almost invariably submit their food to that process. Their cooking utensils are uncommon, though simple. They consist of two vessels of stone; generally the pot-stone or lapis-ollaris, which is also used in some parts of Germany for the same purpose. The lapis-ollaris is originally so soft that it may be cut into the required form with a knife; and when it is not to be found, an extraordinary substitute is used in its stead. This is a kind of cement composed of dogs' hair, seals' blood, and a particular clay, which soon becomes as hard as stone, and bears the effects both of fire and moisture. The lower vessel resembles an English kitchen ash shovel; the upper one a trough. In the first, which is filled with oil, a number of moss wicks float, and are lighted for the fuel. The oil is gradually supplied from strings of fat hung above the flames, the heat of which melts them into so many reservoirs of grease. In the second utensil, which is placed over the fire thus made, the meat is stewed. The natives are filthy in their eating, and hardly reject any thing, from the blubber of the whale to the flesh of the wolf, as they devoured the carcasses of ten or a dozen of the latter animals that were killed by the sailors. Their food, indeed, consisted chiefly of seal and wolves' flesh; but notwithstanding this, they appeared to be perfectly content, and even happy; proving to us that life glows and is cherished in this cheerless portion of the globe, where

> From the first of Time
> Snows swell on snows amazing to the sky;
> With icy mountains high on mountains piled.

At the commencement of their intercourse, the Esquimaux were somewhat reserved, and shy of communicating their opinions; but as their reserve wore off, they divulged a number of interesting particulars. The women, especially, were more frank than the men, but, if they answer the description

given of them, cannot certainly be the most lovely objects in nature. Their features are disagreeable, and they have long, harsh, and exceedingly black hair. A map drawn by one of them (a remarkable instance of intelligence), represents two islands to the north of the second winter's position of the ships, and others in different directions, giving rather a sonorous name to each. The nearest on the north is several days' journey across, and the roaming of the Esquimaux tribes is confined to these islands, as they never venture upon the continent. Every family has a sledge, and generally five or six dogs, with which they travel and hunt with great ease.

They say that their race originally sprung from a beneficent female Spirit; and that from another wicked female Spirit the other three creatures who inhabit the earth are descended, namely, the *Itkali*, or Indians, the *Cablunæ*, or Europeans; and (after long hesitation before they would express it) the *Dogs* which they drive! They abhor the Itkali, and speak of them as murderers, who never spare their tribes. Of the Cablunæ they had only heard, never having seen a European till they encountered those in the *Fury* and *Hecla*; but it is evident, from their classing them with the Indians and Dogs, that they have no very exalted idea of their virtues.

With the appellation of Esquimaux they are unacquainted, and call themselves *Enuee*. The former name is understood to be a term of reproach, meaning 'Eaters of raw flesh.'

It appears from the above that they entertain a belief in certain spirits or superior beings; but their notions concerning them are extremely vague. This was displayed by the Angekok, or Conjuror, already mentioned. This man was, after much entreaty, prevailed upon to exhibit his supernatural powers in the Captain's cabin of one of the ships. He was accompanied by his wife, and began his operations by having every glimpse of light carefully excluded:

he then stripped himself naked, lay down upon the floor, and pretended that he was going to the lower regions where the spirits dwell. His incantations consisted of scarcely articulate sounds, apparently without meaning. He also practised a kind of ventriloquism; and modulated his voice so as to give it the effect of nearness or distance, the latter designed to represent the depths to which he wished it to be believed he had descended. This farce lasted about twenty minutes; and on the re-admission of light, the actor gave an account of his adventures, and of what the spirits had said to him. As a proof of his facts, and the reality of his colloquies, he produced several stripes of fur which one of the spirits had fastened on the back of his skin-coat while he was below, which, indeed, his wife had been busily stitching on during the dark performance. Yet, by such fables and impostures he maintained his sway over his ignorant countrymen, who implicitly credited his inventions and powers. The latter were consequently invoked upon all important occasions. Thus, for example, when the animals which constitute the principal food of the Enuee became scarce, or when they supposed the evil genius had taken them away from the waters and the earth to her caverns beneath, our Angekok was employed to bring them back again. This he accomplished, according to his own story, by the following means. He called to his assistance Torngak, his Familiar, and a friendly spirit, in company with whom he journeyed to the realms below, to combat with the Evil Genius. With this aid, and his own address, he vanquished the enemy, and forced her to submit to his decrees. He then cut off the lower joints of her four fingers, and immediately the bears were released, and found their way to the upper regions. His next operation was to cut off the second joints, by which the seals were liberated. The excision of the upper joints performed a like service for the walruses; and finally, by

amputating the hand, the whales were freed to revisit the shores of the Esquimaux. To substantiate the truth of this grand exploit, the bloody knife with which the deed had been done is produced, and the re-appearance of the bears, seals, walruses, and whales, is thought infallibly to follow. Such a value is set upon the testimonies of supernatural intimacy, that the Angekok declared that he would not exchange the spirit's gifts (one of the stripes of fur) for any thing that could be offered to him; and it was with much difficulty that Capt. Parry did prevail upon him to barter one for some highly coveted article, but he would not part with any more.

From the length of time this Esquimaux intercourse continued, the English were enabled to pick up a rather copious vocabulary of their *language*. Some of the journals contain more than 500 words. Their knowledge of figures is very limited, five or ten being their most common enumerations. When they wish to express the former, one hand is held up; the latter, of course, requires both: but when the sum exceeds that number, the Esquimaux calls on a neighbour to help him out, by holding up one or both hands, as the occasion requires. One of the officers of the Expedition related a whimsical anecdote connected with this sort of dumb-show. He was conversing with a native alone, who wanted to make the large and unusual sign of thirty; he accordingly held up both hands, and was then saddly puzzled how to go further. It never occurred to him to break off and repeat the signal in any way; but, at length, he happily struck upon ten more, by getting the officer to raise his digitals. Here were twenty; but the ten to be added was the grand *pons asinorum* of Esquimaux numerals! The difficulty seemed insuperable, but again his genius befriended the calculator; he held up one of his feet—twenty-five! What was to be done? like one of the wise men of Gotham, the clever native tried to hold up the other foot at the same time,

and his efforts to have all his limbs simultaneously in the air, were the most ludicrous that can be imagined. But it could not be managed; and it was not without an immensity of trouble that the proposed number was finally expressed by both hands and one foot of each of the conversing parties.

The wives of two of the Esquimaux (one with a child at the breast) were taken on board the vessels for medical treatment, both being in the last stages of disease. It was, indeed, too late to save them. The husband of the mother evinced some distress, and howled a little when she expired; but very soon seemed to forget his loss: yet he attended very sedulously to the proceedings of the Cablunæ. They enveloped the body decently in a hammock, and dug a grave for its reception: to this it was borne, accompanied by the husband, who manifested much uneasiness. At last he made himself understood that he was afflicted by the confinement of the corpse. Having obtained a knife, he was permitted to gratify his own feelings, and he cut all the stitches which held the hammock together down the front, so as to give a kind of liberty to the dead form. The covering in of the grave with earth and stones seemed also to give him pain; but he asked leave to bury the living child with its dead mother. The reason assigned for this horrid proposal was, that, being a female, no woman would take the trouble to nurse it, as that was never done among them. If it had been a boy, perhaps, some one might have adopted and reared it: the infant, however, died the next day.

It is curious to remark, that, while they dislike the idea of hurting the dead by putting any thing heavy upon them, they feel no regret at the consequence of their own insufficient mode of sepulture—the dragging of the bodies from their slight snow-tombs to be torn to pieces and devoured by dogs and wolves, as was frequently witnessed by the men, who, when the spring dissolved the snow, had to dig graves for the

mutilated remains of several of the native corpses thus exposed to view, as there was a considerable mortality among them; no fewer than sixteen dying within the few months they spent near the Expedition during its second winter.

In the management of the canoe, the Esquimaux are very expert. These canoes are amazingly light, and formed of skin over whalebone. The largest which Captain Parry obtained is 26 feet in length; and another was between decks in the *Hecla*, which is 19 feet long, and only 19 inches in width, and half as much in the depth. In these the native pursues his marine chase, and spears fish and fowl. The spear is double-pointed with bone, about six or seven inches in length, and barbed. The shaft is of very light wood, five or six feet long, and below the handle, or part by which it is thrown, are three other barbed bones, standing out a few inches from the wood, and calculated to strike the prey, should the bi-forked point miss. They kill at twenty-yards distance. The bow and arrow is also employed in killing game and wild animals. The arrows are pointed with stone, made into the shape of a lance-head, by friction against other stones.

A method of catching seals (and, if we remember correctly, fish also), through a hole in the ice, is one of the most dexterous of Esquimaux contrivances: a line is let down, at the end of which is fastened a small piece of white bone or tooth, above an inch long, cut into the rude form of a fish, and having two bits of pyrites stuck into it to resemble eyes. This bait is drawn through the water, and, when seals or other prey approach to examine it, the watchful native spears them from above.

The knives used by the women are curiously constructed, and as cleverly employed in skinning animals, and carving victuals, as the instruments of hunting are by the men. They resemble a small cheese or saddler's knife, the iron or cutting part being semi-

circular, and inserted in a bone handle. The whole is three or four inches long, and the edge three or four inches in breadth. With these they carve away underhanded in a very dexterous style.

Spectacles are another of their articles, which are curious and well contrived. They consist of a piece of wood scraped thin, like a bandage, and perforated with two narrow horizontal slits, something like pig's eyes, where we use glasses; a rim about an inch broad projects in the same direction as the brim of a hat; and this simple mechanical contrivance, tied round the head, protects the eyes from the drifting snow and spiculæ, and improves the sharpness of the sight.

Among the wonders carried out by our ships, the two which excited the greatest astonishment and delight in the ignorant natives, were the loadstone and a scaramouch of six or eight inches in length. The attraction of needles, &c. by the former was an object of never-failing surprise; and the dancing of the latter, by pulling the string between its feet, was still more a matter of never-ending delight. The Esquimaux loved much to see it made to perform; but if allowed to cause its evolutions with their own hands, their raptures were extravagant, and they would play the puppet for hours together.

When these people first came into contact with strangers, they betrayed no fears or suspicions; but came boldly on board the vessels, one of them even carrying an aged man upon his back to show him the amazing sight. When the trifling presents, on which they set so high a value, were given to them, they leaped and shouted like mad folks, uttering the oddest noises. Of course, equal confidence was displayed by our countrymen, who immediately returned the visit to the huts of their new neighbours, about a three miles' walk, and were received with similar demonstrations of joy by both men and women. Thus began the intercourse, which

lasted during the two winters the Expedition remained on these frozen shores.

The natives evidently paid some regard to dress, for, when they were making their first visit to the ships, the parties appearing borrowed habiliments from those of the tribe whose wardrobes were finer than their own, and who, of course, remained in their snow huts while their friends were parading in their gayest suits.

With all their apparent clownishness, the Esquimaux are not destitute of ingenuity. We have already related several instances of this; but the *chef-d'œuvre* of their talents, and the most remarkable examples of their skill in the *Fine Arts*, form the subjects of the two annexed wood engravings: the drawings are taken from native models.

These are curiously made of skins, the same as the Esquimaux' own clothing, partly with the hairy side outwards and partly inwards. The man's dress consists of a coat, having the fur inside, with a hood over the head, and coming close round the chin. In front it fits the body closely round the waist like a vest, but descends over the hips behind in a tail. The seams are down the sides, under the arms, and it appears, as if to get into this garb, the wearer must push his head and body up into it. Round the cuffs, and all the lower parts of the garment, is a white fur trimming, of the most *exquisite* fashion. Mittens cover the hands. The breeches are loose, and descend below the knee, where two rows of *elegant* trimming are also sewed on. The rough side of this part of the dress is outward. Boots, fitting the leg, complete the male equipment; and so well is this figure formed, that it balances itself, and can nearly stand alone.

I

The female is still more grotesque. Her upper garment has the fur side out; and from the *capote*, which comes round the face, and leaves only a little of it exposed, two long hairy appendages descend, covering two *love-locks* of her own black hair like queues, only not so stiff. The vest in front of this squab little personage falls into a stomacher point. But the oddest portion of her equipment is the boots, which come up much higher than any fisherman's, and are nearly as much in circumference as her body. The fur is inside, as also in her mittens and trowsers. We despair, however, of conveying a perfect idea of these droll performances, which must be seen to afford a proper notion of Esquimaux art and ingenuity. We have only to add, that their smell is not the most delicate; but this accidental quality of the ill-dressed skins may not be inappropriate to the general likeness. Our prints are about half the size of the figures, which they represent very accurately. No features are given.

The magnificent size of the lady's boots will not escape the eye of the slightest judge of portraiture and costume. In fact, these are the most essential parts of the Esquimaux' dress: they are their pockets, their tool-boxes, their provision cupboards: Hudibras's holster was nothing to them. This will be allowed, when we state, that one day a lady of the tribe, enamoured of a wash-hand bason, took the liberty of appropriating it secretly to herself; but, unluckily for her, the theft was discovered, and she was turned over for search. *Proh pudor!* the bason was found concealed in one of her boots!

Another circumstance has just come to our knowledge, so much to the credit of these northern wanderers, that with it we shall conclude this brief sketch. Some of their new acquaintance having travelled to a distance from the vessels, being unable to return, and their feet being affected by the frost, the natives removed their clothing, and put them to their naked bosoms, till the natural warmth was gradually restored;—a proof that all the intensity of these hyperborean regions had not congealed 'the milk of human kindness.'

There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent our falling into error: first, the volume of the SCRIPTURES, which reveal the will of GOD; then the volume of the *Creatures*, which express his power: the latter of which is a key to the former, opening not only our intellect, to conceive the genuine sense of the Scriptures, which is to be drawn out by the general rules of reason and laws of speech; but, besides that, unlocking our faith also, to enter into a serious meditation of the Omnipotence of GOD, the characters whereof are chiefly signed and engraven on his works.—BACON.

Walk out beneath the roseate skies,
Eye, ear, and heart awake;
List to the melodies that rise
From tree, from bush, and brake.

Each fluttering leaf, each murmuring spring,
The great I AM doth own;
To HIM the soaring sky-lark's sing,
In music's sweetest tone.

Canst *thou* not sing! O! leave thy cares
And follies; go thy way!
And morning's praises, morning's prayers,
Go with thee through the day!

B. BARTON.

Read NATURE; Nature is a friend to truth;
Nature is Christian, preaches to mankind;
And bids dead matter aid us in our creed.

YOUNG.

'Tis most apparent, that the succession of things upon the face of the earth is purely the result and effect of the vicissitude of seasons; and is as constant and certain as is the cause of that vicissitude, the Sun's declination: so certain, that, were a man kept for some time blindfold, in such manner that he could have no notice how the year passed on, and were at length turned forth into the next field or garden, he would not need any other almanack to inform him what season of the year it then was.—WOODWARD.

TIME'S TELESCOPE

FOR

1824.

JANUARY.

THE name given to this month by the Romans was taken from JANUS, one of their divinities, to whom they gave two faces; because, on one side, the first day of this month looked towards the new year, and, on the other, towards the old one.

Remarkable Days

In JANUARY 1824.

1.—CIRCUMCISION.

THIS festival was instituted in the sixth century, to commemorate the circumcision of our Saviour: it is also *New Year's Day*.—There are few people to whom the commencement of a New Year does not bring matter either of gratulation or regret. To those hastening onwards to the meridian of life, the gilded prospect of enjoyment to come, or fame, and riches, and honour to be acquired, renders every land-mark between desire and enjoyment a partial enjoyment of itself; while those in the decline of life look towards the New Year as the unwelcome precursor of bodily debility, or mental inactivity—as a stage on the road which leads them to their permanent home. To the young and the prosperous,

the annual revolution of a period, which brings with it only variety of pleasure, is hailed with rapture; while, to the aged and unfortunate, whose hours and minutes are registered by pain, or marked by calamity, the lagging moments move sluggishly along to the great gulf of eternity.

What a dreadfully hasty approach Time makes!—how rapidly roll his chariot wheels! and, at their every revolution he mows, with unsparing scythe, whole crowds from the pleasures and pains of existence! When we look back on time past, we are almost stunned at the idea, and are apt to doubt the reality of the change, which has taken us from toys and boyish plays—from school, and school-companions—and transformed all our early playmates to fathers and mothers: but

> Life glides away, like a brook,
> For ever changing, unperceived the change.

New Year's Day, however, in England, and in most other parts of the civilized world, is rather a day of festive merriment than of serious thought. The enjoyment of the present but too often postpones, if not obliterates, all views of the future; and the congratulations of friends and the meetings of families, at this period, are the leading features of the season.

In *Scotland*, the festivities which commenced at Christmas, are continued, with little intermission, till *Handsel Monday*, or *Auld Handsel Monday* closes the annual round, and the months and days of ordinary life again roll on another year.

Hogmanay, or *Hogmanae* (for such the last day of the year is termed in Edinburgh, and over the greater part of Scotland), is employed in visiting and arranging parties for the due celebration of the commencement of the New Year. Every visitor was, on that evening, treated with wine and cake, or with whisky, buns, and shortbread, or cheese and bread; and the children, in the course of the day, visited their rela-

tions and friends, for the sake of partaking in these attractive eatables. Among the common people and peasantry, the following stanza was used, as the supplication for the accustomed treat:—

> Rise up, gude wife, and shake your feathers,
> Dinna think that we are beggars:
> For we are bairns come out to play;
> Get up and gie's our Hogmanay.

Among the more wealthy ranks, dinners and evening parties were also the order of the day; while the working part of the population, relieved from daily toil, looked forward to the social pleasures of the evening, and the uncontrolled festivities of the New Year's morning, with the anxious wish and the keen appetite of those to whom superfluity in eating and drinking is not an ordinary occurrence. We dare say one half of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, we mean of the middling and lower ranks, did not, on that evening, go to bed; but prepared the *het-pint*, in readiness to sally out as the clock struck twelve, to be the first foot to cross the threshold of a friend. The streets were crowded with parties on this errand even long before that hour; the young men particularly, to show their affection to the girls whose favours they were anxious to secure, often spending a dreary half-hour at the bolted door, lest a more favoured or more anxious lover should anticipate them in the first welcome of beauty.

A *het-pint*, or caudle, was made of ale, spirits, sugar, and nutmeg, or cinnamon, mixed together in appropriate quantities, and boiled; and was carried about, on the first morning of the year, in the tea-kettle in which it was prepared,—the visitors, besides, being plentifully supplied with the refreshments mentioned in our last page. It was held unlucky to enter any person's house, on the first day of the year, empty-handed; and every person in the streets at that time was greeted with a shake of the hand, the wish of 'a gude New-year,' and a proffer of the

het-pint, to drink to the mutual joy. Every female, at the same time, was saluted, and neither rank nor age was exempted from the congratulatory kiss. The noise in the streets, particularly in the great thoroughfares, was tremendous; and the glare of lanterns, when the night was dark, and the moving crowd in every direction, presented a scene of bacchanalism, which, had not one been conscious that it all proceeded from good-humoured kindness and innocent frolic, might have caused some alarm.

The streets in Edinburgh on New-year's Day (all the working-classes being idle) were filled with people of both sexes, on parties of pleasure or visits of kindness. All the children were taken to visit their relatives or friends, and share in the spoils of cake and sweetmeats, which even the lowest provided on this occasion. The water-carriers and milk-women, in their daily visits to their customers, were treated with a dram, and cheese and bread or buns; but, as the innumerable glasses offered could not be contained in one stomach, they carried bottles for the reception of the superabundant liquor. The joyous look of the people, most of them in their Sunday clothes, might have told a stranger it was a season of gladness; and though not a few, whom prudence had not taught to measure their potations by their ability to carry the intoxicating load, were reeling here and there, yet even these lost not their general character for sobriety by a New-year's Day excess. The forenoon, spent in visiting, was succeeded by family dinners, where those whom nature has connected together drew the ties of friendship and affection still closer round the little circle, by mutual wishes for mutual success.

Such were the New Year's days of Edinburgh in former times, and such they continued to be for very many years, till the occurrence of some disgraceful scenes of riot, of robbery, and of murder, similar to those which took place lately in the neighbourhood of

London at the suburban fairs, and which have very properly led to the suppression of some of them,—threw a damp over the harmless festivities of New Year's Eve, which will, probably, never be removed. In the year 1811, gangs of young villains surrounded, beat, and robbed every well-dressed person they met; one policeman was murdered, and a gentleman died from the brutal injuries inflicted upon him by these miscreants: three of them, however, paid the forfeit of their crimes, and were executed at Edinburgh in the ensuing April.—See a further account of Scottish customs on New Year's Eve in T. T. for 1821, p. 2.

A description of the antient celebration of New Year's Day in England, and of its modern observance in *Paris*, will be found in our last volume, pp. 1-3.

6.—EPIPHANY, *or* TWELFTH-DAY.

The rites of this day, the name of which signifies an *appearance of light*, or a *manifestation*, are different in various places, but all in honour of the Eastern Magi.—*Twelfth-day*, in England, we have contributed to illustrate for the last *ten* revolving periods of time, with *our characters*, and yet, like the pastry-cooks, we have a *new set* every year.—'I love (says a lively writer) to see an acre of cake spread out (the sweet frost covering the rich earth below), studded all over with glittering flowers, like ice-plants, and red and green knots of sweetmeat, and hollow yellow-crusted crowns, and kings and queens, and their paraphernalia. I delight to see a score of happy children, sitting huddled all round the dainty fare, eyeing the cake and each other, with faces sunny enough to thaw the white snow. I like to see the gazing silence which is kept so religiously while the large knife goes its round; and the glistening eyes which feed beforehand upon the huge slices, dark with citron and plums, and heavy as gold. And then, when the "characters" are drawn, is it

nothing to watch the peeping delight which escapes from their little eyes? One is proud, as king; another stately, as queen; then there are two whispering grotesque secrets which they cannot contain (these are Sir Gregory Goose and Sir Tunbelly Clumsy). The boys laugh out at their own misfortunes, but the little girls (almost ashamed of their prizes) sit blushing and silent. It is not until the lady of the house goes round, that some of the more extravagant fictions are revealed. And then, what a roar of mirth! Ha, ha! The ceiling shakes, and the air is torn. They bound from their seats, like kids, and insist on seeing Miss Thompson's card. Ah! what merry spite is proclaimed, what ostentatious pity! The little girl is almost in tears; but the large lump of allotted cake is placed seasonably in her hand, and the glass of sweet wine "all round" drowns the shrill urchin laughter, and a gentler delight prevails."

Twelfth Night *as it is* in France and Italy, is pourtrayed in our last volume, pp. 5, 6.

The *Carnival* commences on Twelfth Day, and usually holds till Lent. See T.T. for 1822, p. 5, and for 1823, p. 7. An account of Carnival sports in *Spain* will be seen under *Ash-Wednesday* in the present volume.

8.—SAINT LUCIAN.

Lucian, a native of Syria, was celebrated in his youth for his eloquence, and intimate acquaintance with polite literature. He was a proficient in Hebrew, and revised the Septuagint version of the Bible. After having undergone various torments at the instigation of Maximinus II, he was martyred in the year 312.

12.—PLOUGH MONDAY.

Some curious ceremonies are still observed on this day, in the northern counties, particularly in Yorkshire.—See T.T. for 1822, p. 9.

13.—SAINT HILARY.

Hilary was born at Poictiers in France, of an

illustrious family; and of this place he was chosen bishop in the year 353. He died at Poictiers in 368. Hilary was an excellent orator and poet; his style abounds with rhetorical figures.

*15. 1766.—Nathan Drake, M.D., born.

Dr. Drake is a native of York, a descendant of a family whose pedigree, founded on antient deeds and evidences, and lodged in the Heralds' College, will not often, for antiquity and authenticity, be exceeded. He has practised for the last thirty-two years as a Physician, at Hadleigh in Suffolk, and has published the following works:—

1. *Tentamen Physiologicum Inaugurale De Somno.* Edinburgh, 1789.
2. The *Speculator*, a Periodical Paper, written in conjunction with Dr. Edward Ash. 8vo, London, 1790.
3. Poems. 4to, London, 1793.
4. *Literary Hours;* or, Sketches Critical, Narrative, and Poetical, *First Edition:* 1 vol. royal 8vo, 1798. *Fourth Edition,* 3 vol. 8vo, 1820.
5. *Essays, illustrative of the Tatler, Spectator,* and *Guardian.* 3 vol. 8vo, London, 1805; Second Edition, 1812.
6. Essays, illustrative of the *Rambler, Adventurer,* and *Idler;* and other Periodical Papers to the Year 1809. 2 vol. 8vo, London, 1809.
7. *Shakspeare and his Times;* including the Biography of the Poet; Criticisms on his Genius and Writings; a Disquisition on the Object of his Sonnets; a New Chronology of his Plays, and a History of the Manners, Customs, and Amusements, Superstitions, Poetry, and Elegant Literature of his Age. 2 vol. 4to, with a Portrait, London, 1817.
8. *Winter Nights;* or, Fire-side Lucubrations. 2 vol. fcp. 8vo, London, 1822.
9. *Evenings in Autumn;* a Series of Essays, Narrative and Miscellaneous. 2 vol. fcp. 8vo, London, 1822.

Beside these publications, Dr. Drake has written several papers on Medical Subjects, in various periodical journals; and in 1811 he edited The *Gleaner,* a Series of Periodical Essays, selected from Papers not included in the British Essayists, in 4 vol. 8vo, with a Preface and Notes.

The preceding list may sufficiently prove that Dr. Drake has been no indolent candidate for literary distinction: nor has he been an unsuccessful one. We are perfectly aware that our's is not a Critical Journal; but where we allow ourselves to grace our

Calendar with the record of an author's birth-day, we do not feel ourselves restricted from giving, briefly, our honest estimate of his literary character. Our opinion of Dr. Drake may, indeed, be inferred from the liberty we have frequently taken of adorning our pages with extracts from his various works; but on the present occasion we cannot refrain from adding that, in our view, no living author has more fairly won, or more meekly worn his honours, than the subject of this brief memorial. More brilliant fame, doubtless, has been gained by many who have entered the lists much later; but there are few, perhaps none, in whose reputation we feel a more cordial interest. Diversified as his labours have been, we know of none in which he has failed; we have been delighted by many in which we think he has been truly felicitous. On his professional writings we pronounce no judgment; for though we have heard them highly spoken of, we wish not to give an opinion where we are conscious of incompetency to form one; but on his other productions we can speak from familiar acquaintance. Elegant as a poet; amusing and not uninstructive as a novelist; ingenious and pleasing as an essayist; candid and discriminating as a critic; interesting and lively as a biographer; amiable and unimpeachable as a moralist;—we have no hesitation in owning that our obligations to him for numberless agreeable hours are manifold, and it affords us pleasure thus to record them. One more remark we cannot refrain from offering, for without it our tribute would be imperfect. In an age when literature has been too often degraded by the quabbles and personalities of its votaries, such has been the suavity and amenity of Dr. Drake, as an author and a man, and so uniform the gentlemanly tone of his writings, that, while he has never expressed a harsh or an ungenerous sentiment of a fellow labourer in the fields of literature, he has, we believe, never excited in any one even a momentary

feeling of angry rivalry; and this, surely, is highly honourable to one who has written so much, and for so long a period of time.

*17.—SAINT ANTHONY.

See an account of the 'Benediction of the Beasts' on this day at *Rome*, in T. T. for 1822, p. 10; and of the same ceremony at *Madrid*, in our last volume, p. 10.

18.—SAINT PRISCA.

Prisca, a Roman lady, was early converted to Christianity; but refusing to abjure her religion, and to offer sacrifice when she was commanded, was horribly tortured, and afterwards beheaded, under the Emperor Claudius, in the year 275.

*18.—LA FESTA DI CATTEDRA

Or Commemoration of placing the supposed Chair of St. Peter.—For an account of this ceremony as still practised at Rome, see our last volume, p. 11.

20.—SAINT FABIAN.

St. Fabian succeeded St. Anterus in the pontificate, in the year 236. He was martyred in the persecution of Decius in 250, as St. Cyprian and St. Jerom bear witness.

21.—SAINT AGNES

Has been always considered by the Catholics as a special patroness of purity, with the immaculate Mother of God and St. Thecla. Rome was the theatre of the triumph of St Agnes; and Prudentius says, that her tomb was shown within sight of that city. She suffered not long after the beginning of the persecution of Dioclesian, whose bloody edicts appeared in March in the year of our Lord 303. She was only thirteen years of age at the time of her glorious death.—See T. T. for 1822, pp. 12, 13, for some beautiful lines on this subject by Mr. Keats.

*22. 1823.—J. J. ANGERSTEIN DIED.

In Mr. Angerstein the arts have to mourn the loss of a munificent and enlightened patron, and the numerous charities of the metropolis a warm and libe-

ral supporter. In him the character of a British merchant was developed in the most honourable manner; for as his wealth was drawn from commerce, so it was freely expended in the protection and encouragement of arts, the diffusion of knowledge, and in alleviating the distresses of his fellow creatures.

25.—CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL.

Saint Paul suffered martyrdom under the general persecution of Nero. Being a Roman citizen, he could not be crucified by the Roman laws, as his colleague St. Peter was; he was therefore beheaded:—hence the usual representation of him with a sword in his hand.—See an account of a *Sicilian* festival in honour of this day, in T. T. for 1821, p. 13, and T. T. for 1820, p. 20.

Where proud Damascus' towers rise,
With spear and reeking sword,
Stern Saul, with countless blood-hounds, flies,
Who own him for their Lord;
Their Chief, to whose blest lot 'tis given
Through Christian blood to pass to heaven!

'Twas noon, when suddenly shone out
Unearthly light around;
Unearthly sounds were heard about—
Saul fell, and pressed the ground:
And as on earth he grovelled still,
The Deity revealed his will.

Blind to Damascus then he hied;
And when GOD gave him light,
He preached the faith which he denied,
When sunk in error's night;—
Sinners through JESU'S blood forgiven,
Despised on earth, but heirs of heaven.

Blest faith! with wondrous pow'rs to save
Man, vile howe'er he be;
You steal the triumph from the grave,
From death the victory,
And guide the trembling spirit's flight
To mansions of eternal light.

With such a faith, how light must seem
Man's life, though spent in tears;
A passing cloud, a frightful dream,
That leads to endless years;

Where countless hosts of angels sing
Hosannas to their GOD and KING.

May man remember he is dust,
And kiss affliction's rod,
Nor think *one* chastisement unjust
That cometh from his GOD;
Assured HE doeth all things well[1]
Who rules the pow'rs of death and hell.

RICHARD RYAN.

*26. 1823.—DR. JENNER DIED, THE DISCOVERER OF VACCINATION, ÆT. 74.

The plague which he essayed to stay was universal in its ravages. Other scourges are confined to certain latitudes, or rage only during particular seasons; but time nor place restrained the all-devouring enemy which it was his aim to subdue. There is reason to believe that the Small Pox has existed in the East, especially in China and Indostan, for several thousand years. It did not visit the more Western nations till towards the middle of the sixth century: it then broke out near Mecca, immediately before the birth of Mohammed. It was afterwards gradually diffused over the whole of the Old World, and was finally transported to the New, shortly after the death of Columbus.

In the British Islands alone, it has been computed that *forty thousand* individuals perished annually by this disease! It killed one in fourteen of all that were born, and one in six of all that were attacked by it in the natural way. The introduction of *Inoculation* for Small Pox was productive of great benefit to all who submitted to the operation; but though it augmented the individual security, it is a well-ascertained fact that it added to the general mortality, by multiplying the sources of contagion, and thereby increasing the number of those who became affected with the natural distemper.

All who have not yet duly appreciated the benefits which Vaccination has conferred on mankind, may

[1] See Mark, chap. vii, v. 37.

do well to meditate for a while on this picture. Let them look on the loathsomeness and dangers of Small Pox in its most mitigated form; let them consider that this disease has been banished from some countries, and with due care might be eradicated from all; let them remember, that notwithstanding prejudices, carelessness, and ignorance, millions now live who, but for Vaccination, would have been in their graves; let them think on these things, and say, what ought to be their feelings towards him who has been the honoured instrument of so much good.

Doctor Jenner is interred in the chancel of the parish church at Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, and the following epitaph is to be placed upon his tomb:—

> Within this tomb hath found a resting place
> The great Physician of the human race—
> Immortal JENNER! whose gigantic mind
> Brought life and health to more than half mankind.
> Let rescued infancy his worth proclaim,
> And lisp out blessings on his honoured name;
> And radiant Beauty drop her saddest tear,
> For Beauty's truest, trustiest friend lies here[1]!

*27. 1823.—DR. CHARLES HUTTON DIED, ÆT. 86; An eminent Mathematician, and author of many distinguished works; among which may be mentioned (in conjunction with Drs. Shaw and Pearson) the 'Abridgment of the Philosophical Transactions,' to which he was a valuable contributor, in 18 vol. 4to; and the 'Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary,' in 2 vol. 4to, an extremely useful and excellent work.—See some interesting particulars of Dr. Hutton in the *Literary Gazette* for February 1, 1823.

29. 1820.—K. GEORGE THE FOURTH'S ACCESSION.

30.—KING CHARLES I, MARTYR.

For many interesting particulars of this day consult our former volumes.

31. 1820.—KING GEORGE IV PROCLAIMED.

[1] Dr. Baron of Gloucester, we understand, is preparing for the press a Life of Dr. Jenner, for which he is furnished with ample materials; but we regret to hear that the subscription for a monument to his memory has failed!

*31. 1784.—Bernard Barton born.

Sheltered, but not to social duties lost;
Secluded, but not buried; and with song
Cheering his days.

We have great pleasure in presenting to our readers '*some account*' of the 'QUAKER POET,' whose elegant and interesting productions have afforded so much gratification to every reader of pure taste and right feelings. It is a source of gratification to us to be able to reckon Mr. Barton among our correspondents and well-wishers, and we consider it no small honour to have such an *avant-courier* for our annual volume in the preliminary ode with which he has kindly favoured us for the last and present year. It does not always happen, unfortunately, that an intimate acquaintance with the author is calculated to increase our admiration of his writings; in the present case, however, we can safely assert that the pleasure we have derived from the perusal of Mr. Barton's poetry has been greatly enhanced by what we have heard of his amiable private character, and of many little circumstances of his life which are unknown to the mass of his readers. Anxious that our friends may participate, with us, in this pleasure, we shall lay before them some particulars of our Quaker poet, which cannot fail to gratify a rational curiosity, and must, we think, excite a strong interest in favour of the moral bard of Woodbridge. Of the authenticity of the materials our readers may be perfectly satisfied, as they are furnished by one who is well acquainted with Mr. Barton.

BERNARD BARTON was born in the vicinity of London; his father was in trade in the metropolis, whither he had come from his native place, Carlisle. The subject of this memoir had the misfortune to lose his mother one month after his birth: her maiden name was Mary Done, and she was a native of Rockcliffe, Cumberland; she died at the early

age of 32. The following lines 'to a Profile' (Poems, 3d edit. p. 190) evince the feelings with which our poet still cherishes her memory, or rather the recollection of what has been told him respecting her:—

I knew thee not! then wherefore gaze
Upon thy silent shadow there,
Which so imperfectly pourtrays
The form thy features used to wear?
Yet have I often looked at thee,
As if those lips could speak to me.

I knew thee not! and thou couldst know,
At best, but little more of one
Whose pilgrimage on earth below
Commenced, just ere thy own was done;
For few and fleeting days were thine,
To hope or fear for lot of mine.

Yet few and fleeting as they were,
Fancy and feeling picture this,
They prompted many a fervent prayer,
Witnessed, perchance, a parting kiss;
And might not kiss, and prayer, from thee,
At such a period, profit me?

Whether they did or not, I owe
At least this tribute to thy worth;
Though little all I *can* bestow,
Yet fond affection gives it birth;
And prompts me, as thy shade I view,
To bless thee, whom I never knew'!

---

[1] In unison with these delightful feelings is the following poetic *gem*, which, as we think it will be here 'well set,' will sparkle with additional lustre.

They tell us of an Indian tree,
Which, howsoe'er the sun and sky
May tempt its boughs to wander free,
And shoot, and blossom, wide and high,
Far better loves to bend its arms
Downward again to that dear earth,
From which the life, that fills and warms
Its grateful being, first had birth.

'Tis thus, though wooed by flatt'ring friends,
And fed with fame (*if* fame it be)
This heart, my own dear mother, bends,
With love's true instinct, back to thee!

T. MOORE.

His father died before Mr. Barton was seven years old; but his second marriage, which took place a few months before his death, provided an excellent parent for his children: to her, and to his two sisters[1], both several years older than himself, our author owed infinite obligations. His education at one of the Quaker seminaries was, of course, plain and circumscribed, being pretty much confined to useful, indeed necessary, branches of knowledge. But his father had been a man of greater natural and more cultivated intellect than many; he had read much, and on the abolition of Slavery, in which he was one of Clarkson's earliest associates, he had, on several occasions, proved that he could write well, though, we believe, he was never avowedly an author. He had left no despicable collection of books, so that in his school vacations ample means were afforded to his son of indulging his taste for reading. A pleasing tribute to the memory of Mr. Barton's father will be found in 'Napoleon and other Poems,' lately published, p. 243.

In the year 1806, Mr. Barton took up his residence in the pleasant town of Woodbridge in Suffolk, and commenced business as a merchant; but an unlooked for domestic affliction of the severest kind was about to visit him, and his worldly prospects were to receive an irrecoverable shock,—the loss of his amiable wife, before they had been married a twelvemonth, and soon after the birth of her child! This excellent woman, to whom our poet was, for so short a time, united, gave rise to some of his best pieces,—particularly to the poem beginning 'The Heaven was cloudless'[2], and that entitled 'A Por-

[1] One of these sisters is the present *Mrs. Hack*, advantageously known as the authoress of several useful and highly interesting works for children. See some introductory verses to her, prefixed to the 3d edition of Mr. Barton's Poems. His brother John has also distinguished himself by one or two judicious pamphlets on the situation and circumstances of the Poor.

[2] Poems by B. Barton, p. 133, 3d edit. 1822.

trait,' in 'Napoleon and other Poems,' p. 245. In this last piece, the poet no less beautifully than truly observes,—

> Sympathies, which soothe and bless
> Our life, from day to day,
> Which throw, with silent tenderness,
> Fresh flowers across our way,
> The heart must ever fondly cling;
> But can the poet's sweetest string
> Their loveliness display?
> No—nor could Titian's *self* supply
> Their living presence, once gone by.
>
> The air, in which we breathe and live,
> Eludes our touch and sight;
> The fairest flowers their fragrance give
> To stillness, and to night;
> The softest sounds that Music flings,
> In passing, from her heaven-plumed wings
> Are trackless in their flight!
> And thus life's sweetest bliss is known
> To silent, grateful thought alone.

This mournful event, combined with discouraging prospects of a mercantile nature, induced our author to retire from commercial pursuits on his own behalf; and in 1810 he obtained a situation as a clerk in the Woodbridge Bank, which he still holds.

Soon after Mr. Barton had entered upon his present situation, he began 'to commit the sin of rhyme,' and, a new Provincial Paper being established about this time, it became the vehicle of his effusions: by degrees our young poet became bold enough to send a short piece now and then to a London paper, and at last, in 1812, ventured on an anonymous volume entitled 'Metrical Effusions,' 250 copies of which were printed by a bookseller of Woodbridge, and sold within the immediate circle of our author's acquaintance. In 1818, Mr. Barton printed, by subscription, an elegant volume, in elephant 8vo, of 'Poems by an Amateur,' of which 150 only were struck off, and none ever sold at the shops. Encouraged by the very flattering manner in which these impressions of his poems were received by his

friends, our author at last ventured to publish, in a small volume, '*Poems by Bernard Barton*,' which was very favourably noticed by the Literary journals, and, being afterwards made still more known by an article in the Edinburgh Review, has now reached a *third* edition. Little more than a year ago he published, in a handsome octavo volume, '*Napoleon and other Poems*,' of which there have been numerous very flattering notices in the critical journals.

Such has been the literary career of Bernard Barton. If it have not left behind it the brilliant track of other poetical comets, it has been less erratic in its course: and if it have not been irradiated by the full blaze of a Noon-day Sun, it has nevertheless been illumined by the silver lustre of the Queen of Night, —and his Parnassian vespers may be said to possess all the mild and soothing beauties of the Evening Star. If his Muse have not always reached the sunward path of the soaring eagle, it is no extravagant praise to say, that she has often emulated the sublimity of his aërial flight. But the great charm thrown around the effusions of the Suffolk bard is, that 'lucid veil' of morality and religion which 'covers but not conceals'—that 'silver net-work,' through which his poetic 'apples of gold' shine with an adventitious beauty which even the gorgeous ornaments so profusely lavished by a Byron or a Moore would fail to invest them.

There is a fame which owes its spell
To popular applause alone;
Which seems on lip and tongue to dwell,
And finds—in others' breath—its own;
For such the eager worldling sighs,
And this the fickle world supplies.

There is a nobler fame—which draws
Its purer essence from the heart;
Which only seeks that calm applause
The virtuous and the wise impart:
Such fame beyond the grave shall live;
But this the world can never give. B. BARTON.

We have alluded to the amiable character of our poet; that his modesty is equal to his merit, the following extract, from a letter to a friend, will afford a pleasing evidence. Speaking of his literary career, he says, 'it has been marked by an indulgence on the part of the public, and the dispensers of literary fame, which I never anticipated. When I consider that only about three years have elapsed since I avowed myself an author, I am really surprised at the notice my trivial productions have received, and the numerous acquaintance to which they have, by correspondence, introduced me. Much of this, I dare say, is owing to my Quakerism[1], and to that, unquestionably, I was indebted for the article in the Edinburgh Review, and the more recent passing notice in the Quarterly. Still, as I do not believe that any *outré* or *adventitious* source of attraction would have alone procured me the attention I have found, I would hope it may partly have arisen from their simple, unaffected appeal to those quiet, domestic secluded feelings, which endear the still under-current of existence—in short, to my being content to make the best I could of the homely and confined materials to which my situation has given me access, without affecting scholarship, or aiming at romantic embellishment: there is nothing like simple truth and nature, after all; and he who is satisfied with simply and faithfully describing what he actually sees, feels, and thinks, may always hope to appeal successfully to the unsophisticated heart.'

[1] We cannot omit this opportunity of stating our opinion that Mr. Barton's writings not only reflect no discredit on the worthy sect to which he belongs, but that they have done much to awaken kinder feelings, and to give rise to more liberal views respecting a Society, many of whose living members would be an honour to any age or country. Without compromising one jot or tittle of their religious consistency, he has amply succeeded in rendering them more attractive in the view of their fellow christians, by shewing that they are not so narrow-minded, cold, and sectarian in their views and feelings as may have been supposed.

We must now conclude our notice of the bard of Woodbridge: it has occupied more space than we usually allot to articles of this nature, but the interest and the novelty of the theme must plead our excuse. Should this brief account excite the curiosity of our readers to become better acquainted with our friend, we refer them to the whole length portrait painted by himself, and contained in every page of his 'Poems.' In the mean time, our readers may peruse the tribute of another Suffolk poet, in whose sentiments and wishes they will, doubtless, most heartily concur.

To BERNARD BARTON[1].

Walk on a little longer in thy path
Of sorrow and of toil: TIME hath its bound,
Nor shoreless is the sea of human life.
Walk on a little longer in the faith
Of thy pure heart, Poet and Friend!—thy path
Points to thee onward. What's the world to thee
And such as thou? Cold, icy cold they be
Who look upon thee; and their hearts, as those
Whom in her lonely solitude of snow
Young Laila saw, and wept.—Yet bear thou on,
Meek child of song.—Are they not thine—the earth,
Green in its living beauty,—the lone sky—
The flow of waters, and the spirit that leaves
Beneath the ocean's depth?—Look up! look up!
And on the gates of adamant that close
The portals of thy life, look up, and read
What there is written—FAITH and HOPE.—Hope then,
Hope that upholds the arch of Heaven, and Faith
As strong, be thine—and thy reward shall be
The sabbath of a pure submitted mind.
Such be thy lot!—Or does thy gentle heart,
That ever seeks communion with itself
Of all that's good, and lovely; does it yearn
With thoughts of human kindness; would it lay
Its sorrows on the pitying breast, and press
The faithful hand of TRUTH?—Oh, there be those

[1] These beautiful lines first appeared in the 'Suffolk Chronicle,' but deserve a less perishable record than that of a Provincial Newspaper.

Who look upon thy path with eyes of love,
And watch thee, journeying by thy side, unseen.
Say, hast thou him forgotten, who of thee
Amid his lonely musings, by the depth
Of shadowy woods, or where his wakeful lamp
Gleams star-like through the midnight hour, has thought
With feelings that despondence cannot touch,
Though dark the shades of life that fall on him,
And pale his cheek with care?—

Enough, enough;
The very bread we eat is steeped in tears:
All has been offered by us at the shrine
Of Sorrow, yea the heart's best gifts, and still
The cup we drink is full.—

He too is thine
Who crossed in early youth the ocean streams,
And oft, as round his tent the hot monsoon
Blew stifling the loose desart-sands, his heart
Sighed, when his pleasant home by Benhall's groves,
Amid each shelving bank and flowery coomb,
In dream or nightly vision to his eyes
Came like the voice of bliss. Each well-known spot,
The fir-grove, and the linnet-haunted copse,
Again he saw. The wild-wood lane, that wound
By many a garden-plot and rustic fence,
They all were his: and clearer now he sees
You ruined tower;—the church-spire shines! he knows
His own sweet linden-shade!

——And are there not,
By Deben's gentle stream and Orwell's shore,
Hearts of thine own; and tender as the thoughts
Of love itself, wishes, and hopes, and fears,
That flow to thee from breasts as pure as truth,
And in that truth made strong? E'en now of thee,
Amid her evening walk or morning meal,
Remembrance speaks, and voices from afar
Come to thee from the turf where COLLINS lies,
And where, through peaceful vallies as she glides,
Too early lost, her poet Lavant mourns.

Benhall, June 22, 1823. JOHN MITFORD.

Astronomical Occurrences

In JANUARY 1824.

From the beauty of those things which are obvious to the eyes of all, we acknowledge that his inexpressible beauty excels that of all the creatures; and from the magnitude of those sensible bodies that surround us, we conclude the infinite and immense goodness of their Creator, whose plenitude of power exceeds all thought, as well as expression.—ST. BASIL.

Obliquity of the Ecliptic.

THE nature and variation of this *obliquity* have already been explained in our former volumes; particularly in those for 1816 and 1817. Referring such of our readers as wish to study the subject to these, we shall merely insert the quantity of that obliquity for the following epochs during the present year, viz.

January ...	1st, the obliquity is	23°	27′	48·3″
April	1st, ...	23	27	48·3
July.....	1st, ...	23	27	46·6
October ...	1st, ...	23	27	46·5
December	31st, ...	23	27	44·7

The equation of the equinoctial points at the several eras for which they are usually computed are for the present year as follow, viz.

January ...	1st, the equation is	17·1″
April.....	1st, ...	17·5
July	1st, ...	17·8
October	1st, ...	18·0
December	31st, ...	18·0

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

The Sun will be eclipsed in the morning of the 1st of this month; but the eclipse will be *invisible* in this country, as the conjunction takes place at 7 m. after 8,

In longitude ...	9s.	9°	56′
Moon's latitude	0	0	47′ S.

The same luminary will be again eclipsed in the night of the 26th of this month; but the eclipse will,

of course, be invisible here. The circumstances are as follow, viz.

Conjunction at 11h. 39m.
In longitude..... 3s. 5° 11′ 30″
Moon's latitude 24 0 N.

The Sun will be centrally eclipsed on the meridian at 11h. 37m. 30s.

In longitude ..... 174° 22′ 15″ W.
And latitude ..... 47 4 30 N.

The Sun enters Aquarius at 38m. after midnight of the 20th; and rises and sets on the respective days as in the following table. For the information of our youthful readers, with a considerable accession of whom we are honoured every year, it may be proper to observe, that those times are computed for the first meridian of Great Britain, or that which passes through the Royal Observatory at Greenwich; but they may be readily reduced to any other meridian, by adding or subtracting the time corresponding to the difference of longitude (calculated by proportion at the rate of one hour for every 15°), as the place is east or west of Greenwich. The time of rising or setting for any intermediate epoch may also be easily found by the same rule of proportion.

Example.—Suppose the time of the Sun's rising were required for the 24th of this month. The difference of the times answering to the 21st and 26th is 8m.; and therefore as 5 : 3 :: 8 : 5 very nearly, which must be subtracted from the time corresponding to the 21st, as the Sun rises earlier each day, and then the time answering to the 24th will be 40m. after 7.

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

January 1st,	Sun rises	5m.	after 8.	Sets	55m.	after 3
6th,	.....	2	 8	.....	58	 3
11th,	.....	57	 7	.....	3	 4
16th,	.....	51	 7	.....	9	 4
21st,	.....	45	 7	.....	15	 4
26th,	.....	37	 7	.....	23	 4
31st,	.....	29	 7	.....	31	 4

Equation of Time.

The sense in which our young readers are to understand the astronomical quantity indicated by the term *Equation of Time* has already been explained in our volumes: see T. T. for 1814, p. 60, and 1816, p. 19. The equation for any intermediate time not specified in the following table must be found by proportion, in the same manner as for the Sun's rising and setting; for an example of which we must refer to T. T. for 1823, p. 18. It may, however, be observed here, that the equation of time simply implies, in its practical sense, the difference of time as indicated by a good sun dial and a well regulated clock: these correspond with each other only *four* times a year, and then the equation is nothing. At all other periods it varies daily. In the early part of the year, the clock is before the Sun, and the following table shows what must be added to the time by the dial, to ascertain the hour the clock should indicate at the same moment.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

			m.	*s.*
Thursday,	Jan. 1st,	to the time by the dial *add*	3	35
Tuesday,	6th,		5	34
Sunday,	11th,		8	2
Friday,	16th,		9	54
Wednesday,	21st,		11	30
Monday,	26th,		12	46
Saturday,	31st,		13	43

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

New Moon,	1st day,	at 7 m. after	8	in the morning
First Quarter,	9th,	36	12	at noon
Full Moon,	16th,	50	8	in the morning
Last Quarter,	23d,	46	1	
New Moon,	31st,	48	3	

On the morning of the 16th of this month the Moon will be eclipsed, and the eclipse will be partly

visible at Greenwich, and consequently in other parts of the country. The circumstances under which it takes place are as follow: viz.

	h.	m.	s.
Beginning of the eclipse	7	18	[illegible]
Moon sets eclipsed	7	38	[illegible]
Middle	8	43	45
Ecliptic opposition	8	49	45
End of the eclipse	10	9	15

Digits eclipsed 9° 22′ 45″ on the Moon's northern limb; or from the southern side of the Earth's shadow.

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following Table exhibits a selection of the times of the Moon's passing the meridian of the Royal Observatory on certain days of this month, and are chosen as those which will afford the most favourable opportunities for observation, if the weather prove clear. The time requires a slight reduction for any other longitude, which depends upon the Moon's horary motion, and the difference of longitude between the first meridian and the place for which it is required. The quantity to be added or subtracted from the time given in the Table is found by proportion, as in the instances of the corrections already noticed for the Sun's rising and setting, and the equation of time.

TABLE

Of the Moon's Passage over the first Meridian.

January	7th,	at 24 m.	after 4	in the evening
	8th,	... 6	5	.....
	9th,	... 50	5	.....
	10th,	... 38	6	.....
	11th,	... 30	7	.....
	12th,	... 28	8	.....
	13th,	... 29	9	.....
	14th,	... 33	10	.....
	23d,	... 43	5	in the morning
	24th,	... 32	6	.....
	25th,	... 23	7	.....
	26th,	... 14	8	.....
	27th,	... 5	9	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Our readers are already aware that the phases of this beautiful planet are subject to a constant variation like those of the Moon, and that they are consequently subject to the calculations of astronomers. The method of performing these we have explained in T. T. for 1819, p. 17. We shall therefore only insert the results of these calculations for the 1st of each month of the present year.

January 1st, { Illuminated part 6·87822 / Dark part ..... 5·12178

The phase or illuminated part of Venus is now increasing, but, having past the point of her maximum brilliancy, her splendour is, therefore, diminishing.

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

For an explanation of these phenomena, we must refer to our former volumes, particularly to that for 1818, p. 169. To afford the young astronomer opportunities of observing the phenomena, we shall select such of the first and second satellites of this planet as have their eclipses visible at Greenwich this month. These are the following, viz.

Emersions.

First Satellite,	5th day,	at 45 m.	39 s.	after	2	in the morning
	6th	14 ...	16		9	at night
	12th	40 ...	6		4	in the morning
	13th	8 ...	45		11	at night
	16th	37 ...	23		3	in the morning
	21st	3 ...	23		1	.....
	22d	32 ...	2		7	at night
	28th	58 ...	9		2	in the morning
	29th	26 ...	50		9	at night
Second Satellite,	7th	11 ...	57		2	in the morning
	14th	49 ...	22		4	.....
	17th	8 ...	29		6	at night
	24th	45 ...	51		8	.....
	31st	23 ...	14		11	.....

Form of Saturn's Ring.

As this phenomenon varies slowly, we shall only

insert the results of these variations for the first of every third month, leaving the necessary calculations as exercises for our readers, and referring them to T. T. for 1819, p. 52, for the rules by which they are to be performed.

January 1st, { Transverse axis ..... 1·000
Conjugate axis ..... — 0·420

Transits and Altitudes of the Planets.

For some practical observations on this subject, see T. T. for 1823, p. 21, which will be sufficient to enable our readers to understand the following Table of the transits and altitudes for every sixth day of the month.

TABLE

Of the Meridional Transits and Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
	TRANSITS.				
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	0 50 *aft.*	1 4	1 15	1 16	0 58
Venus	8 45 *mor.*	8 44	8 46	8 49	8 53
Mars	5 34 *mor.*	5 15	4 57	4 37	4 18
Jupiter	11 38 *night*	11 8	10 38	10 10	9 42
Saturn	8 16 *even.*	7 49	7 23	6 57	6 32
G. Sidus	0 7 *aft.*	11 37 *mor.*	11 11	10 49	10 21
	MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.				
Mercury	14°35′	16°40′	19°32′	22°44′	25° 7′
Venus	22 48	21 14	19 50	18 39	17 44
Mars	39 20	38 34	37 52	37 18	36 49
Jupiter	61 56	61 49	61 51	61 53	61 55
Saturn	53 15	53 14	53 14	53 15	53 18
G. Sidus	15 10	15 12	15 14	15 16	15 18

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars[1].

January 1st, with G. Sidus, at 26 m. after 11 in the morning
2d, ... Mercury ... 3 ..... 10 .....
14th, ... Jupiter ..... 47 ..... 10 at night
15th, ... ♑ in Gemini 0 ..... 6 in the evening
25th, ... ♏ in Scorpio 0 ..... 8 .....
28th, ... G. Sidus ..... 37 ..... 8 .....
31st, ... Mercury ... 53 ..... 2 in the afternoon

[1] The conjunctions with the stars here inserted are restricted to those of the first four magnitudes.

Venus will be in conjunction with β in Scorpio. Georgium Sidus will be in conjunction at one in the morning of the 3d. Saturn will be stationary on the 18th; Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 19th, and be stationary on the 24th of this month.

When the intensity of frost has refined the atmosphere, how resplendent do the nights of this month sometimes appear! And who that has left the busy haunts of men, and mused in solitude and silence beneath the spangled canopy of heaven, has not experienced something of the feelings expressed in the following lines, as he, enraptured, gazed upon the splendid scene?

When I look forth into the face of night,
And see those silent orbs that gem the sky,
The Moon, that holds her glorious path on high,
The countless host of stars of lesser light,
All moving on their destined course aright,
Through the broad ocean of infinity,
Steered by the hand of HIM whose glories lie
Beyond the stretch of mortal sense or sight;
When I behold all Heav'n divinely bright
With this array, and downward turn mine eyes,
My soul expands into its native might,
And loathes the burden of that coil that lies
Like lead upon the soul, and clogs its flight
Unto its purer seat and kindred skies.

New Monthly Mag.

The Naturalist's Diary

For JANUARY 1824.

How beautiful thy frosty morn,
When brilliants gem each feathery thorn!
How fair thy cloudless noon!
And through the leafless trees, at night,
With more than Summer's softened light,
Shines thy resplendent moon.

E. BARTON.

THE intense cold of the last winter appears to have been felt in most parts of Europe, and to have

surpassed in rigour that of every season since the memorable frost of 1814; severe weather and bitter gales continuing deep into the spring months of 1823. In the north of England the fall of snow was very heavy. The Derbyshire hills, and all that tract of mountainous country which runs thence to Scotland, were covered with snow to an extraordinary depth; and where roads were cut, the traveller passed between two walls of snow which reached higher than his head as he sat on horseback. The 'cloud-capt' Skiddaw was a complete snow-mountain; and such was the severity of the weather, that even the *eagles* which haunt this eminence forsook their impregnable retreat to seek for food and shelter in more favourable situations. The 'poor timid hare' suffered greatly from the rigour of this 'iron winter;' numbers perished in the snow, and many more became the prey of the ever watchful poacher, as this animal is altogether helpless in the snow. Even when the snow covers only the surface of the ground, the hare is traced with almost unerring certainty, and falls an easy victim to the illegal depredator.

Great havock was made among the *feathered creation*. Birds left their usual haunts to seek for food in less inclement climes: a great variety of water-fowl, which generally pass their winter upon the northern lakes and seas, in this year were driven from them into our streams and rivers, and many of them returned no more to their native waters. The wild swan, and some of the divers *(mergus)* from the shores of Norway and the Orkneys, visited many parts of our island: a prodigious flight of wild-fowl, of several species, driven probably from the frozen waters of Otmoor in Oxfordshire, Whittlesea in Cambridgeshire, &c., passed over a part of Gloucestershire, to the open stream of the Severn, where their natural wildness, and the expanse of the river's mouth, preserved them little injured, until a milder season restored them to their native habitations.

Many birds were seen on the *eastern* coast which visit us only in very severe weather and at remote periods. Large flocks of the *snow-bunting* were observed in the salt marshes near Southwold and Aldborough; birds, whose habitation in mountainous countries approaches the region of perpetual snow, and whose appearance so far south clearly indicated the very severe winter which followed in their train. Numbers of wild swans, barnacle geese, velvet ducks, sea pheasants, and other scarce birds, were shot on the same coast. A stork alighted on one of the lakes in Heveningham Park; and a specimen of that rare bird the grosbeak, or hawfinch, was taken at Bramfield, driven there probably in its passage from Sweden to France or Spain, by the north-east gales which prevailed about this time.

The feathered race on the *southern* coast suffered severely from the intense severity of the weather. Many hundreds of larks became so tame from hunger and cold, as to be taken by the hand, in the neighbourhood of Arundel. At Brighton, the officers of the Life Guards taking compassion on the distressed condition of these aërial songsters, ordered a large spot of ground in their barrack yard to be cleared from its covering of ice and snow, and grain to be scattered on it, for all of the feathered tribe that might choose to partake of their bounty; prohibiting, at the same time, the use of the net and gun, and every species of annoyance that could injure or alarm them. Thousands and tens of thousands of famished little objects, from first to last, accepted the invitation so held out to them, to all of which grain, daily, with a liberal hand, was supplied; and in this manner did they fare sumptuously in security, while their wretched species were slaughtered without mercy in other quarters. As the weather broke, their number diminished; but, for several days, the spot which cherished them in time of need was not abandoned; they frequently hovered over it in myriads, warbling their sweetest

notes around the habitations of their benefactors, as if in gratitude for their preservation.

Immense numbers of fieldfares, blackbirds, redwings, and starlings, were driven into the villages round London by the severity of the season; and along the banks of the Thames, great quantities of wild ducks and geese were seen, particularly at Whitstable; and sea-gulls were observed as high up the river as Chiswick. Farther southward, rooks were observed to pursue and pounce upon sparrows as the hawks do, and then resort to their accustomed trees to devour their victims.

Several specimens of that beautiful bird, the Bohemian chatterer *(ampelis garrulus)*, which is rarely seen but in very severe winters, were shot in different parts of England, particularly in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, and Yorkshire, and near Rose Castle in Scotland. A *gannet*, or solan goose, driven probably from St. Kilda by the inclemency of the weather, was seen near Uppingham in Rutlandshire. A great abundance of *woodcocks*, a circumstance generally indicative of a hard and long-continued winter, appeared in this month, last year.

The sagacity displayed by the smaller members of the feathered tribe in this inclement season is worthy of remark, and shows how admirably the Great Author of the world has linked the universal chain of self-preservation through all degrees of animated nature, from blind instinct to comprehensive reason. These little companions in distress, as if instinctively, assisted each other in neatly clearing away the snow to some distance around them, and then, closely huddling together, took all those necessary precautions for the preservation of warmth, that human ingenuity, with their limited means, could perform.

The accumulation of small birds from the preceding mild seasons (observes our Gloucestershire correspondent) was greatly thinned by the severity of the last winter, the perseverance of young

sportsmen, and bat-fowlers; the *bullfinch* in some parts is nearly annihilated, and the beautiful *goldfinch* greatly diminished in number; and only a few solitary *blackbirds* and *missel thrushes* have escaped the general havock of the season. Reduced as these races are, we might reasonably suppose it would require years and favourable circumstances to restore them to their original plenty; but such are the renovating powers of nature, that a single year will often replace the inhabitants of our groves and hedges, and many pairs migrate from woodland districts, large gardens, shrubberies, and preserved places, to replenish those that have been destroyed in the more open and inhabited regions. This is very remarkably the case with the game fowl, especially *partridges*, as numbers left in one part by no means insure a plentiful progeny there the ensuing season: in pairing time they disperse to other places for loneliness and quiet. Nature seems to have endowed these birds, and many other animals, with such a jealous and pugnacious disposition, that they will endure no rival, or competition; for which cause they separate from society with each other when these passions are excited, and thus keep up a regular supply, and fill up the voids occasioned by improvidence or the contingencies of life. The *nightingale* in the spring of 1823 was scarce, and late in its arrival; but season in general makes no great difference in the coming of our migratory birds, as in the warm and early spring of 1822, and the cold and backward one of 1823, there was no corresponding difference in the arrivals of the wryneck, the willow wren, cuckoo, redtail, swallows, and some others of our soft-billed birds.

The various and beautiful phenomena afforded by *frost* and snow were seen in perfection during the last winter; and often did we say with the poet,

> I have gazed with delight on the fanciful [illegible]
> By the thick *hoar-frost* on the casement traced:

I have grieved to think that these beauties must all
Fade with the breath of the first bright hour:
Rock, forest, and silvery waterfall,
And diamond palace, and rose-hung bower.

On SNOW.

See how the feathered blossoms through the air
Traverse a thousand various paths to find
On the impurer earth a place that's fair,
Courting the conduct of each faithless wind!

See how they seem to hover near their end,
Nicely supported on their doubtful wings,
Yet all by an impulse of fate descend,
On dunghills some—some on the courts of kings.

Of warmest vapours which the sun exhales,
All are composed; and in a short-lived hour
Their dazzling pride and coyest beauty falls,
Dissolved by Phœbus, or a weeping shower.

All, of one matter formed, to one return;
Their fall is greatest who are placed most high:
Let not the proud presume, or poorest mourn,
Their fate's decreed, and every one must die.

Boast not of endless wealth, or noble birth:
From earth all came—all must return to earth'!

In our very fickle climate, this and the succeeding month have so few charms for the naturalist, that he feels little inclination, nor is he tempted by any whisperings of hope, or expectation, to leave his warm asylum; yet the bright gleam that expands the petals of the crocus is so cheering, gives such a spring to his thoughts, and the sunny shelter of the copse looks so inviting, that he closes his volume, endures the keenness of the wind, and hastens to enjoy the transient beam.

Though frosty blasts have rudely bared the trees,
And nipt each flow'ret on the plain below,
[redacted]e leafless shrubs with sweetest radiance glow,
[redacted]till amidst the wrecks of winter please.
For, lo! unshaken by the slightest breeze,
Ten thousand pendant drops bedeck each thorn;
While these reflect th' unclouded beam of morn,
What rainbow tints the raptured gazer sees!

[1] These lines are by an almost forgotten poet of the name of Peel, who was born at Alveston, in Gloucestershire, in the year 1648.

What bright effulgence!—what a glorious view!
The purest *brilliants* midst court revels bright,
Are nought to these, with gems of richest hue,
Illumed with all the lustre's blaze of light!
Thus, while my *comforts* nipt, the ground bestrew,
May sweet Religion's beam irradiate Sorrow's dew.

REV. J. BLACK.

Although, under the wrapping of his great coat, the naturalist is but a superficial observer, one of the first objects that will at this season engage his attention, will probably be that most harmless little bird, the tree-creeper (*certhia familiaris*); he is generally a retired inhabitant of woods and groves, and is not always noticed, on account of his small size, and the manner in which he seeks for food. This bird does not make a long flight, but rather darting from tree to tree, and uttering one faint note, clings to the larger limbs, round which it runs as a mouse would do, in a broken spiral form, to a certain height, with a sort of wriggling motion; then flits away again, fixes on the bole of another tree, and begins anew his spiral progress; and so intent is he on the object of his pursuit, that he may be swept from the stem with a switch: his bill is long, and formed like a sickle, and very convenient for extracting the insects from the thick mosses and lichens of the oak, where they hide themselves. As the spring advances, his food becomes comparatively scarce in his usual haunts; he then visits our gardens and orchards, and in those less frequented places appears to meet with a sufficient supply; but he stays with us no longer than his necessities require, and is away to his woods when plenty returns. Why this bird is not more numerous than it is, seems unaccountable by the common progression of nature: she lays many eggs, and those in unfrequented and secure places. The situations in which they reside, and their manner of feeding, render it probable that they are rarely killed by birds of prey: by man he is never destroyed; yet the numbers of this bird are

not upon the increase, nor do we always find them in their usual situations. Perhaps he becomes the prey of the martin-cat, as this creature is an excellent climber, and is most likely to reach his haunts. Pennant says, that the tree-creeper migrates to Italy in the autumn, but many of them certainly remain with us during winter.

The throstle *(turdus musicus)* is now seen in our gardens, and under sunny hedges and southern walls, searching with indefatigable activity for snails: he will feed occasionally upon the fruit of the white-thorn, or peck out the seeds from crabs, like his congenerous turdus the blackbird; but his delight is in insect food, particularly chrysalids and worms, hidden under the dung of cattle, and, when these are frozen too hard for him to break up, he resorts for food to the snail (chiefly *helix hortensis* and *h. nemoralis*), as he declines the larger species of *h. aspersa* when the lesser ones are to be obtained. The quantity of these that he draws out from holes in ditch banks, and from under the stumps of trees, during the winter and early spring months, is very considerable: seizing them by the opening of the shell, he dashes them against a stone, and then selects the slug; and we not uncommonly, in these seasons, find a stone by a hedge side quite surrounded with the fragments of his prey. This throstle is the only enemy, we believe, which the helix has, but, in hard and long winters, he proves a very destructive one. Other birds now quit their retreats in search of food. The nut-hatch *(sitta europæa)* is heard, and larks *(alauda arvensis)* congregate, and fly to the warm stubble for [redacted]er.

To the SKY-LARK:

Written during Captivity.

Happy Songster! poised in air,
Fluttering o'er thy grassy nest,
Free from sorrow, pain or care,
Joyous warblings fill thy breast:

To any other heart than mine
Those notes were melody divine.

Happy Songster! thou art free,
Floating on thy downy plume;
I, o'erwhelmed with misery,
Hasten to my final doom.
Cease then, Songster, cease thy strain;
It wounds the soul, and mocks my pain.

Happy Songster! why should I
Bid thy music cease to flow?
Had I wings like thee, I'd fly
Far from scenes of grief and woe:
My spirit then would soar away
On the bright beams of endless day.

Songster! seek my last retreat,
There thy trembling pinions wave,
Pour those notes so wild and sweet,
Chaunt a requiem o'er my grave;
Then, sweet Songster, then, like thee,
Shall I be blest with liberty! *Literary Gazette.*

The shell-less snail or slug *(limax)* makes its appearance, and commences its depredations on garden plants and green wheat.

The red-breast *(motacilla rubecula)* now chaunts its pretty song.—See our last volume, pp. 28-30, for an account of the manners and habits of this interesting little bird.—It is not uncommon for the red-breast to build its nest in a church, and generally in the corner of some pew; and as it will occasionally add its pleasing notes to those of the organ and choir, there is something peculiarly affecting in the red-breast's simple and natural song of thanksgiving, thus mingled with, and heard above the power of human harmony.

To a ROBIN,

Which took up his Residence in the Cathedral at Bristol, and accompanied the Organ with his Singing.

Sweet, social bird, whose soft harmonious lays
Swell the glad song of thy Creator's praise;
Say, art thou conscious of approaching ills—
Fell winter's storms—the pointed blast that kills?

Shunn'st thou the savage north's unpitying breath—
Or cruel man's more latent snares of death?
Here dwell secure; here, with incessant note,
Pour the soft music of thy trembling throat.
Here, gentle bird, a sure asylum finds,
Nor dread the chilling frost nor boist'rous wind.
No hostile tyrant of the feathered race
Shall dare invade thee in this hallowed place;
Nor, while he sails the liquid air along,
Check the shrill numbers of thy cheerful song.
No cautious gunner, whose unerring sight
Stops the swift eagle in his rapid flight,
Shall here disturb my lovely songster's rest,
Nor wound the plumage of his crimsoned breast.
The truant schoolboy, who, in wanton play,
With viscid lime involves the treach'rous spray,
In vain shall spread the wily snare for thee,
Alike secure thy life and liberty.
Peace then, sweet warbler, to thy flutt'ring heart,
Defy the rage of hawks and toils of art:
Now shake thy downy plumes,—now gladlier pay
Thy grateful tribute to each rising day.
While crowds *below* their willing voices raise,
To sing with holy zeal JEHOVAH'S praise,
Thou, perched on high, shalt hear th' adoring throng,
Catch the warm strains, and aid the sacred song;
Increase the solemn chorus, and inspire
Each tongue with music, and each heart with fire[1]!

The hedge-sparrow *(motacilla modularis)* and the thrush now begin to sing. The wren, also, 'pipes her perennial lay,' even among the flakes of snow. The titmouse *(parus)* pulls straw out of the thatch, in search of insects; linnets *(fringilla linota)* congregate; and rooks *(corvus frugilegus)* resort to their nest trees. Pullets begin to lay; young lambs are dropped now. Spiders shoot out their webs; and the blackbird *(turdus merula)* whistles. The field-fares, red-wings, skylarks, and titlarks, resort to watered meadows for food, and are, in part, supported by the gnats which are on the snow, near the

[1] Some pretty lines on this subject may be seen in our last volume, p. 30.

water. The tops of tender turnips and ivy-berries afford food for the graminivorous birds, as the ring-dove, &c. Earth-worms lie out on the ground, and the shell-snail *(helix nemoralis)* appears.

> Wary snails, that slowly crawl,
> From cabbage leaf, up garden wall,
> To save their slimy heads and horns
> From rugged boughs and frosty morns,
> Travel with houses on their backs,
> Like northern pedlars with their packs.
> *Hudibras Redivivus.*

The house-sparrow *(fringilla domestica)* chirps, and the bat *(vespertilio)* is now seen. Bats are very useful animals; destroying great numbers of the large white moths which fly abroad by night.—See our last volume, p. 31.

In this month, the earth is often covered with a fleecy mantle of several inches, and sometimes of several feet, in depth, accompanied with piercing winds from the east and north. In severe winters, when a long-continued reduction of temperature occurs, nothing is more to be desired by the *horticulturist* than this chaste covering of winter; it protects the vascular system of his hardy plants from rupture and consequent decay, and preserves his early crops, and the more tender objects of his care, from destruction. Snow was formerly considered by philosophers as being assistant to vegetation, in consequence of containing nitrous salts, and the author of the 'Seasons' coincided in this erroneous opinion: plants, however, are only benefited by the shelter it affords them; and the soil (especially that turned up in preparatory ridges), by being pulverised and minutely divided during its gradual dissolution.

The general torpor into which vegetation falls in this month, holds out but few attractions to the botanist; yet amidst this scene of desolation some signs of returning life appear; and *flowers* which accompany us throughout the year are to be found even in

the severest weather of January. The *helleborus niger*, or Christmas rose, as it is commonly called, exhibits its pretty flowers at this season; and the china rose *(rosa chinensis* and *rosa semperflorens)* blows in the open air, even in the month of December, often with its red buds mossed with frost: this flower blooms almost in solitude, and affords melancholy, rather than pleasurable sensations.

No flower of her kindred,
No rose-bud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
Or give sigh for sigh.

If the weather be mild and favourable, towards the end of the month, the garden crocus (c. *vernus)* puts forth its flowers before the leaves are grown to their full length, and the *galanthus nivalis*, or modest and elegantly drooping snowdrop, appears.

Beneath Thy all-directing nod,
Both worlds and worms are equal, GOD!
Thy hand the comet's orbits drew,
And lighted yonder glow-worm too;
Thou didst the dome of heaven build up,
And form'dst yon *snow-drop's silver cup*. BOWRING.

In mild seasons, there are many flowers in blow in the month of January; as carnations, roses, chrysanthemums, auriculas, ten-week stocks, daisies[1], mignionette, marigolds, sweet peas, polyanthuses,

[1] *To a* DAISY, *blooming in the Depth of Winter.*

Too forward Beauty! was it wisely done,
Thus premature to throw thy virgin charms
Into decrepid January's arms?
A tardy wooer he; for, lo! his sun
With grudging aspect gives a feeble ray.
Soon will the circle of thy joys be run;
Thy sp[illegible]s shall finish ere 'tis well begun,
Nor ever greet the nuptial tribes of May.
E'en while thou dost unfold thy bosom gay,
I hear the tempest muttering in the north;
The breezes, keener-edged, are coming forth;
And how shalt thou withstand the icy fray?
Sweet floret! while *thy* fate I thus bemoan,
Gl[illegible]ticipation paints my own. CHILLHOUSE.

primroses, violets, periwinkle, hearts' ease, and the sweet smelling *wall-flower*, the favourite of some of our modern poets. Bernard Barton has a little piece addressed to the wall-flower in his 'Napoleon and other Poems,' from which we take the following lines:—

To me thy scite disconsolate,
On turret, wall, or tower,
Makes thee appear misfortune's mate,
And desolation's dower.

Thou ask'st no kindly cultured soil
Thy natal bed to be;
Thou need'st not man's officious toil
To plant or water thee.

Sown by the winds, thou meekly rear'st,
On ruin's crumbling crest,
Thy fragile form; and there appear'st,
In smiling beauty drest.

There, in thy bleak and earthless bed,
Thou brav'st the tempest's strife;
And giv'st, what else were cold and dead,
A lingering glow of life.

The golden saxifrage, called also golden *moss*, and stonecrop (*chrysoplenium*), in the absence of other flowers, affords its little aid to give life and beauty to the garden. The bramble (*rubus fruticosus*) still retains its leaves, and gives a thin scattering of green in the otherwise leafless hedges; while the berries of the hawthorn, the wild rose, and the spindle-tree, afford their brilliant touches of red. The twigs of the red dog-wood, too, give a richness amid the general brown of the other shrubs. *Ivy* now casts its leaves: this sombre evergreen, it is well known, and the common nettle (*urtica urens*), flourish best near buildings, and perhaps for the same reason, namely, requiring a soil containing nitrate of potass. In few places does ivy grow in such richness as upon the ruins of Kenilworth Castle, which the Scotish novelist has so well described during the meridian of its glory;—but it is now no longer a habitation for Leicester or Elizabeth.

No high-toned clarion sounds alarms,
No banner wakes the pride of arms;
But Ivy, creeping year by year,
Of growth enormous, triumphs here.
Each dark festoon with pride upheaves
Its glossy wilderness of leaves
On sturdy limbs, that, clasping, bow
Broad o'er the turret's utmost brow,
Encompassing, by strength alone,
In fret-work bars, the sliding stone,
That tells how years and storms prevail,
And spreads its dust upon the gale.

With this month the leisure of the *gardener* concludes, and with February commences his annual plenitude of healthful labours and delightful cares. In January, as in the preceding month, the requisite labours in the garden are but few in number; it is a mere courier month, and prepares the way for its successors. Manuring, digging, and trenching the ground for the reception of future crops, protecting the tender inhabitants of his soil, forming hot beds for early forcing, with the insertion of a few small successional crops, and the completion of any requisite planting and pruning, comprise the horticulturist's January employments.

FEBRUARY.

SOME etymologists derive February from *Februa*, an epithet given to Juno, as the goddess of purification; while others attribute the origin of the name to *Februa*, a feast held by the Romans in this month, in behalf of the manes of the deceased. This month is called *Sowle-Grove* by the inhabitants of South Wales.

Remarkable Days

In FEBRUARY 1824.

2.—PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

This festival is of high antiquity, and the antient

christians observed it by using a great number of lights; in remembrance, as it is supposed, of our blessed Saviour's being declared by *Simeon* to be a light to lighten the Gentiles; hence the name of Candlemas-day. The *Benediction of the Candles* at Rome on this day is described in T. T. for 1822, p. 34.

As an appropriate illustration of this day, we shall introduce an account of an interesting ceremony which takes place in *Spain* every Saturday night, called the *Rosario del Aurora*, or dawn rosary, and which lasts till the dawning of the Sabbath sun. Devout and pious emotions, blended with a sober-measured gaiety, find utterance in a peculiar hymn which is remarkable for its sweetness and its melancholy; and the hours which are commonly given to repose are here consecrated to the pathetic effusions of natural, but excited religious feeling. In Andalusia, when death has entered the villages, the *Rosario del Aurora* visits the nearest relative of the dead before the break of day, and conducts him to the tomb of the departed, where he kneels down, encircled by his friends, who pour forth their plaints and their prayers. They who have never witnessed scenes like these may fancy them in all their vivid and imposing imagery, twilight, and tears and hymns, and the grave. No delirium of joy, no bitterness of sorrow, ever left a deeper impress than this funeral picture has stamped on him who has once been present.

Thus are the religious feelings blended with the daily pursuits of life, and those pursuits become elevated and sanctified by devout associations.

WHAT SHALL THE LAND PRODUCE.

What shall the land produce, that thou
Art wa'ering, GOD! so carefully?
'Thorns to bind around my brow,
'Flowers to form a wreath for thee.'

Streams from such a hand that flow
Soon shall form a garden fair!
'Yes! but different wreaths shall grow
'From the plants I water there.'
Tell me who, my God! shall wear,
Wear the garlands round their brow?
'I the wreath of thorns shall bear,
'And the flowery garland thou.'

Whatever delusions, whatever errors, superstition may have interwoven with popular belief in Spain, there is much that is affecting and dramatic in its external observances. The personifications of the Virgin Mary are infinite, and in each she has a peculiar identity. The Virgin of Mount Carmel, and the Virgin of Montserrat, are distinct and separate characters. *Our Lady of the Rosary*, and *our Lady of Sorrow*, have their special virtues, and their particular votaries. Sometimes the Virgin appears a sublime and imposing epic heroine—and at others a tender friend, weeping with those who weep, and mingling sympathies with every species of woe. What Spanish maid ever felt the first influences of love without singing the well-known couplet,—

Virgin of grief! she knows my woe;
Then to her sacred shrine I'll go,
Recount to her my sorrows o'er,
And weep till I can weep no more.

But Mary, when giving birth to the infant Jesus, is of all objects the most beloved. She is represented in a thousand forms, and with a thousand titles: the virgin of pain—the virgin of agony—the virgin of dejection—the virgin of life—the virgin of the bitter pangs—the virgin of death; while to every designation innumerable poetical compositions, or romances, are attached. Sometimes a high tone of reverence and devotion is assumed—at others all the familiarity of fond and tender affection. Now all the chivalric [illegible]dour of fervent and vehement love—and

now the trembling and hesitating expression of fear and awe.

The following lines were written in the fifteenth century, by Pero Lopez de Ayala, while in prison in England:—

LADY! STAR *of* BRIGHTEST RAY.

Lady! star of brightest ray,
Which this world of darkness guides,
Light thy pilgrim on his way,
For his soul in thee confides!

Thou art like the fragrant bough
Of the beauteous cassia-tree;
Like the orient myrrh art thou,
Whose sweet breath is worthy thee.
Lady! when the sufferer mourns,
'Tis to thee he bends his eye;
'Tis to thee the sinner turns,
Virgin of the cloudless sky!

Thee has Wisdom's son compared
To the towering cedar trees;
And thy church, which thou dost guard,
To Mount Sion's cypresses.
Thou art like the palm-trees green,
Which the richest fruits have given,
Thou the olive—radiant queen!
Blooming in the book of heaven.

Brightest planet of the sea,
Dazzling gate in heaven's abode—
Virgin in the agony,
Mother, daughter, sponse of God.
Though the curse that Eve had brought
O'er her children threat'ning stood,
All the evil that she wrought,
Lady! thou hast turned to good[1].

3.—SAINT BLASE.

He was Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, and suffered martyrdom in 316, under the persecution of Licinius, by command of Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia and the Lesser Armenia.

[1] See the *London Magazine* for August 1823, pp. 158, 159, where the *originals* of these beautiful hymns may be seen. They are translated, we believe, by *Mr. Bowring*.

5.—SAINT AGATHA.

She suffered martyrdom under Decius, in the year 251.—See an account of the fête of St. Agatha, in Sicily, in our last volume, p. 37.

*5. 1816.—RICHARD, VISCOUNT FITZWILLIAM, DIED.

By his will, dated August 18, 1815, he bequeathed to the University of Cambridge his splendid collection of books, paintings, drawings, engravings, &c., together with £100,000 South Sea Annuities, for the erection of a museum in which they might be placed. An old building has been fitted up for the temporary reception of the collection, till such time as the museum can be completed, and many valuable additions of paintings, prints, books, &c., have been made to it by subsequent benefactors; and it bids fair to be not only one of the brightest ornaments of that distinguished seat of learning, but, in time, to rival the other museums of this island and of the continent. It will form a depository which has long been a desideratum at Cambridge, where the numerous, and learned, and tasteful, and opulent connections of that seminary may place those specimens of literature and the polite arts, which should be kept in careful preservation before the public eye.

*7. 1823.—ANNE RADCLIFFE DIED.

Among the female ornaments of English literature she will long hold one of the highest places, and be remembered as nearly at the head of a school which has been the source of very general sympathy and delight. Her powers of pleasing were singularly great, and the happy combination of various talents which her pieces display, entitle her to the rank of one of the first novel-writers of her age; while the beautiful verses interspersed among her tales, must raise her highly in the estimation of every poetical genius. In person, Mrs. Radcliffe was of diminutive size; and, during the prime of her life, when she mixed in company, her conversation was vivacious, and

unalloyed by the pedantic formality which too often characterizes the manners of literary ladies. For her 'Mysteries of Udolpho' Messrs. Robinsons gave her £1,000, and were well repaid for their speculation. The 'Italians' produced £1,500, which, though generally read, did not increase her reputation.

14.—SAINT VALENTINE.

Valentine was an antient presbyter of the church: after a year's imprisonment at Rome, he was beaten with clubs, and then beheaded, in the Via Flaminia, about the year 270, under Claudius II. The modern celebration of this day is well known: see our former volumes, particularly the last, pp. 41-43, where some 'elegant Valentines' are given.

15.—SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

The institution of this and the two following Sundays cannot be traced higher than the beginning of the sixth or the close of the fifth century. 'When the words Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima (seventieth, sixtieth, and fiftieth), were first applied to denote these three Sundays, the season of Lent had generally been extended to a fast of six weeks, that is, thirty-six days, not reckoning the Sundays, which were always celebrated as festivals. At this time, also, the Sunday which we call the first Sunday in Lent, was styled simply *Quadragesima*, or the fortieth, meaning, no doubt, the fortieth day before Easter. Quadragesima was also the name given to the season of Lent, and denoted the quadragesimal or forty days' fast. When the three weeks before Quadragesima ceased to be considered as weeks after the Theophany (or Epiphany), and were appointed to be observed as a time of preparation for Lent, it was perfectly conformable to the ordinary mode of computation to reckon backwards, and, for the sake of even and round numbers, to count by decades.'—*(Shepherd.)*

22.—SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY. *See* SEPTUAGESIMA.

24.—SAINT MATTHIAS.

Matthias was, probably, one of the seventy disciples, and was a constant attendant upon our Lord, from the time of his baptism by St. John until his ascension. The gospel and traditions published under his name are considered spurious.

*26. 1823.—JOHN PHILIP KEMBLE DIED.

Next to the great Garrick, the stage is indebted to Kemble, together with his sister, Mrs. Siddons,—or, rather, it should be said to Mrs. Siddons, together with her brother, John Philip Kemble—for raising it to a degree of splendour to which, probably, it had never attained before in any age or nation. As an actor, Kemble was great, but too artificial: but he was a man of considerable taste and elegant literature, and under him the drama was refined, and the stage greatly improved in its scenery, properties, and costume. Mrs. Siddons and Kemble have lived nearly two centuries subsequent to Shakespeare, but it has been in *their days* that his dramas have been performed with the greatest splendour and effect.

STANZAS *on the* DEATH *of* JOHN KEMBLE.

* * *

Thy genius took a thousand forms,
To grace—to dazzle—to dismay—
Now brooding o'er dim-gathered storms,
Now shedding rosy, radiant day.
Witness the Moor's all-jealous ire;
Witness the Prince's restless eye;
Witness the King's condition dire,
The Roman's dignity.

Thou stood'st, an emblem to our eyes,
Of all that saddens or sublimes—
A form descended from the skies,
To nobly image antient times—
To say, 'Behold in me revived,
Torn from tradition's pictured page,

One, who in guilt or glory lived,
In some far vanished age!'

Lo! even thou the shade art fled—
Upon a far romantic shore,
Fate bade thee mingle with the dead,
And we behold thy form no more!
No more!—yet brightly shalt thou shine,
A thought that never can depart,
Mingled with youth's warm dreams divine,
In many a grateful heart.

Amidst admiring thousands, thou
The awful passions of the soul
Badest rise and work; and, o'er thy brow,
The sun did shine, the storm did roll:
Love, like the zephyr's vernal sigh—
Anger, like Etna when it burns—
Despair, and guilt, and jealousy,
In all their varied turns.

But thou hast left us—thou art gone
To rest in low and lonely bed,
Torn off from life, an added one
To the great legion of the dead.
SHAKSPEARE! his wreath is twined with yours;
With you he blends his deathless lot:
Ne'er, while the Drama's reign endures,
Can KEMBLE be forgot!

Δ'.

29.—QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY. *See* SEPTUAGESIMA, p. 45.

FEB. —, 1823.—AGNES IBBETSON DIED, ÆT. 66.

Devoted to literary pursuits with an ardour which can only be fully appreciated by the companions and associates of her friendship, in every object of Nature and Science, 'truth genuinely established upon investigation' was her sole aim and desire. Endowed with a liberal and enlarged taste for literature, in the English, French, and Italian languages, she decidedly preferred the path of Natural Philosophy, especially *Geology*, *Mineralogy*, and *Astronomy*, in all of which she made great progress; but her favourite pursuit, beyond all others, and wherein she

[1] Blackwood's Magazine, vol. xiii, p. 547.

has usefully and eminently evidenced the vigour of her intellect, was BOTANY, and especially the *Physiology of Plants*. Here her mind embraced the subject with a powerful impression of the wonders displayed in this most amazing feature of the divine economy, and, under the sense of its rich and felicitous illustration of Nature's works, she has developed data connected with 'the life of the seed,' 'its germination,' and 'progress to maturity,' not only curious and highly interesting, but also important and useful. The application of the solar microscope to establish every link of her chain of facts and deductions, stamps her communications upon this subject with a peculiar value. The powerful tone of her mind, and her desire to appreciate the wonders of the vegetable tribes, have accomplished much in this path; and it is earnestly to be desired and hoped, that those papers may be given to the public to which she had put her last touches, after *twenty years'* unabated investigation. In this her favourite pursuit, she will long be known to the world, as her observations are most honourably recorded, not only in Nicholson's and other scientific journals, but their substance is also transferred and copied into the Edinburgh and other National Encyclopedias—and already her important discoveries have received testimonies of high respect and appreciation from foreigners of distinguished science.

Astronomical Occurrences

In FEBRUARY 1824.

Oh, thou beautiful
And unimaginable ether! and
Ye multiplying masses of increased
And still increasing lights! what are ye? what
Is this blue wilderness of interminable
[illegible]re ye roll along, as I have seen
[illegible]s along the limpid streams of Eden?
[illegible] course measured for ye? Or do ye

Sweep on in your unbounded revelry
Through an aërial universe of endless
Expansion, at which my soul aches to think,
Intoxicated with eternity? BYRON.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Pisces at 19 m. after 3 in the afternoon of the 19th of this month. He also rises and sets, during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

February 1st,	Sun rises	28 m.	after 7.	Sets at	32 m.	past 4
6th,	.....	19	..... 7.	.....	41	 4
11th,	.....	12	..... 7.	.....	48	 4
16th,	.....	1	..... 7.	.....	59	 4
21st,	.....	51	..... 6.	.....	9	 5
26th,	.....	41	..... 6.	.....	19	 5

Equation of Time.

When the time of the day has been observed on a good sun-dial, and it is required to reduce this apparent to mean time, add the numbers given in the following

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

		m.	s.
Sunday, Feb. 1st,	to the time by the dial *add*	13	52
Friday, ... 6th,	.....	14	25
Wednesday, 11th,	.....	14	36
Monday, ... 16th,	.....	14	28
Saturday, ... 21st,	.....	14	2
Thursday,... 26th,	.....	13	20

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	8th day, at	3 m.	after	3 in the morning
Full Moon, ...	14th	24	.....	7 in the evening
Last Quarter,	21st	15	.....	5 in the afternoon
New Moon, ...	29th	38	.....	10 at night

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following times are selected from the Moon's transits this month, as affording suitable opportuni-

ties for observation, should the weather prove favourable: viz.

February	6th, at	25	after 4	in the afternoon
	7th, ...	15	 5	.....
	8th, ...	8	 6	.....
	9th, ...	6	 7	in the evening
	10th, ...	7	 8	.....
	11th, ...	10	 9	.....
	12th, ...	11	 10	at night
	13th, ...	10	 11	.....
	21st, ...	15	 5	in the morning
	22d, ...	7	 6	.....
	23d, ...	0	 7	.....
	24th, ...	50	 7	.....
	25th, ...	39	 8	.....
	26th, ...	26	 9	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

The light and dark phases of the queen of the planetary world will bear the following proportions to each other at the commencement of this month: viz.

February 1st, { Illuminated part 8·06700 / Dark part ..... 3·93300

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

The first and second of the satellites belonging to this planet will be visibly eclipsed at the following times during this month; and it should be remembered that the numbers answer to mean time, as observed at the Royal Observatory.

Emersions.

First Satellite	5th day,	at 21	m. 46	s. after	11	at night
	7th	50	... 32	.....	5	in the afternoon
	13th	16	... 48	.....	1	in the morning
	14th	45	... 37	.....	7	in the evening
	20th	11	... 57	.....	3	in the morning
	21st	40	... 46	.....	9	in the evening
	28th	36	... 1	.....	11	at night
Second Satellite	8th	0	... 33	.....	2	in the morning
	18th	56	... 2	.....	5	in the afternoon
	25th	33	... 11	.....	8	in the evening

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	0 8 *aft.*	11 17 *mor.*	10 31	10 21	10 15
Venus	8 58 *mor.*	11 6	11 11	11 18	11 26
Mars	3 59 *mor.*	3 33	3 11	2 49	2 23
Jupiter	9 11 *even.*	8 45	8 20	7 56	7 33
Saturn	6 4 *aft.*	5 40	5 17	4 55	4 34
G. Sidus	10 2 *mor.*	9 36	9 13	8 52	8 29
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	25°19′	23°38′	21°53′	20°52′	20°44′
Venus	17 4	16 50	16 59	17 29	18 21
Mars	36 25	36 14	36 12	36 19	36 35
Jupiter	61 57	61 58	61 59	61 59	62 0
Saturn	53 22	53 27	53 33	53 39	53 47
G. Sidus	15 20	15 22	15 24	15 25	15 27

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Feb. 11th, with Jupiter ..... at 26 m. after 5 in the morning
12th, ... ♊ in Gemini .... 0 ..... 5 .....
22d, ... ∝ in Scorpio ... 0 ..... 3 .....
25th, ... G. Sidus..... 35 ..... 5 .....
26th, ... Venus..... 43 ..... 9 .....
27th, ... Mercury..... 16 .....11 in the forenoon

Mercury will be in his inferior conjunction at 45 m. after 9 in the evening of the 2d of this month. Saturn will be in quadrature at half past 1 in the morning of the 7th. Mercury and Mars will each be stationary on the 15th, and Jupiter on the 26th. Mercury will likewise attain his greatest elongation on the 28th.

We shall conclude the Occurrences of this month with the following expressive lines on the STAR; and may they induce some of our youthful readers to drink copious draughts from this fountain of celestial knowledge!

The STAR.

How bril'iant on the Ethiop brow of Night
Beams you fixed Star! whose intermitting blaze,
Like woman's changeful eye, now shuns our gaze,
Then sparkles forth in loveliness of light.

Still-twinkling speck! thou seemest to my sight
In size a spangle on the Tyrian stole,
Of majesty, 'mid hosts more mildly bright,
Altho' of worlds the centre and the soul!

Sure 'twas a thing for angels to have seen,
When God did hang those lustres thro' the sky—
Suns, founts of life! and Darkness sought to screen
With dusky wing her glazed and haggard eye—
In vain, for, pierced with myriad shafts, she died;
And now her timid ghost dares only brood
O'er Planets in their midnight solitude—
Doomed all the day in Ocean's cave to hide.

Thou burning Axle of a star-verged Wheel!
Dost thou afflict the beings of thy ray
With feelings such as earth-born wretches feel—
Pride, passion, hate, distrust, and agony?
Do any weep o'er blighted hopes—or curse
The hour thy light first ushered them to life?
Doth Malice, keener than assassin's knife,
Stab in the dark? or seeming friendship, worse—
Skilled round the heart with serpent coil to wind—
Forsake and leave his sleepless sting behind?
No! if I deemed it, I should cease to look
Beyond the scene where thousands know those ills;
Nor longer read that brightly-lettered book
Which heaven unfolds—whose page of beauty fills
The breast with hope of an immortal lot,
When tears are dried, and injuries forgot!

Oh! when the soul, no longer earthward weighed,
Exults tow'rd heaven on swift, seraphic wing—
Among the joys past man's imagining,
It may be one to scan, o'er space displayed,
Those wondrous works our blindness now debars—
The awful secrets written in the Stars!

Literary Gazette.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS.

[Continued from Time's Telescope for 1823, p. 349.]

LIBRA (♎), *the Balance.*

LIBRA is the seventh sign in the order of the ecliptic, and that which the Sun enters when he crosses that circle from north to south. If we reckon according to the fixed and intellectual ecliptic, this

event takes place on the 23d of September. When the Sun enters this sign, he is said to have no declination, and the days and nights are of an equal length all over the globe, except at the poles. Without taking the effects of refraction into the account, the Sun rises at this time to the south and sets at the north pole; perpetual day, therefore, succeeds at the one, and continued night at the other, for a space of six months. It was, doubtless, from this equality of days and nights that this sign was first adopted; and popular opinion assigned the Balance to Astræa, the goddess of justice. MILTON has availed himself of this idea, in the following lines:—

> The ETERNAL
> Hung forth in heaven his golden scales, yet seen
> Betwixt Astræa and the Scorpion sign.

VIRGIL had previously made the same appropriation, in lines which are thus translated by DRYDEN:—

> But when Astræa's Balance, hung on high,
> Betwixt the nights and days divides the sky;
> Then yoke your oxen, sow your winter's grain,
> Till cold December comes with driving rain.

The Greeks assign a different motive for the adoption of this sign. They assert, that the Balance was placed among the signs of the zodiac to commemorate the invention of weights and measures by Mochus. In the Indian zodiac this sign is represented in the same manner as by us; and in that given by Sir William Jones, the Balance is held by a female. In some other antient zodiacs, the Balance is represented by a man holding a measuring rod, which obviously refers to an Egyptian origin, for when the Sun was in this sign the Nile began to decrease.

The sign Libra is bounded in the north by Mons Mænalus and Serpens; on the east by Scorpio; on the south by Centaurus and Lupus; and, on the west, by Virgo. The whole number of stars it contains is 51; two of these are of the 2d magnitude, one of the 3d, and eight of the 4th; the rest

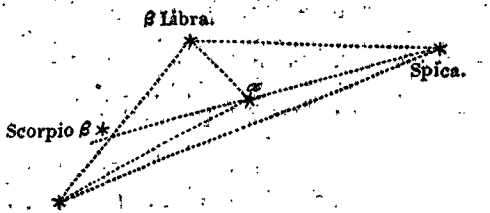
are all smaller. The most distinguished of these stars is α Zuben el Genubi, which is situated on the equator, and is in the southern scale. This star rises on the east-south-east point of the compass at London. Its right ascension was lately stated at 220° 14′ 47″, and its south declination at 15° 16′ 18″. It is a double star, and the mean right ascension in time for the year 1822 was 14 h. 40 m. 47 s.; their southern declination 15° 16′ 18″, and their meridional altitude at 23° 15′ 1″.

The following are the times of their rising and culminating on the first of each month of 1820, which we extract from Dr. Jamieson's Celestial Atlas, to which work we must refer the reader for much valuable and interesting information both on this and the other zodiacal signs.

	Rising.	*Culminating.*		*Rising.*	*Culminating.*
	h. m.	h. m.		h. m.	h. m.
January	3 15 *mor.*	6 26 *mor.*	July.....	3 30 *aft.*	6 38 *aft.*
February	1 10	4 14	August..	1 30	4 31 .....
March...	11 18 *even.*	2 25	Sept.....	11 25 *mor.*	2 25 .....
April.....	9 30	0 32	October	9 30	0 47 .....
May.....	7 40	10 41 *even.*	Novemb.	7 35	10 47 *mor.*
June.....	5 50 *aft.*	8 39	Decemb.	5 25	8 43 .....

The places of the two scales, and, consequently, of this sign, may readily be distinguished by means of two stars of the 2d magnitude. These are α, and β Zuben es Chimali; the former, as already mentioned, is in the southern and the latter in the northern scale. α is about equidistant from Spica and Antares, the former situated in the ears of corn held by Virgo, the latter in the body of Scorpio, and these three form a very obtuse angled triangle, α being the vertex. A still larger triangle, including the former, is also formed by Spica, β and Antares, β forming the vertex. If α and β be supposed to be joined, two other triangles will be formed with Antares in the vertex to the east and Spica to the west. It may likewise be remarked, that Spica, α in Libra, and β in the Scorpion's head, form nearly a right line, the two latter being rather nearer than the two former; β in

Scorpio is also nearly in the line between Antares and β Libra. The following diagram will illustrate these remarks, and guide the student in finding the position of Libra:—



[To be continued.]

The Naturalist's Diary

For FEBRUARY 1824.

Ill fares the traveller now, and he that stalks
In ponderous boots beside his reeking team:
The wain goes heavily, impeded sore
By congregated loads adhering close
To the clogged wheels; and in its sluggish pace
Noiseless appears a moving hill of snow. COWPER.

This month frequently presents a most wintry aspect; the ground is covered with snow; the public roads offer to our view many such a picture as that described by the poet; and if we seek the grove,

Where winter throws
O'er all its tufted heads its feathering snows,

how changed, how silent is this gay haunt of youth and love, and this sacred retirement of the contemplative admirer of Nature!—

Its tangling branches now are shorn
Of leafy honours, and, upborne
By their close tops, the snow hath made
Beneath, a strange and solemn shade.

But, if the heavens cease to pour their snow 'like wool,' and to wrap all nature in a robe of dazzling whiteness, we are equally attracted to a morning

walk by the clear frosty air, and the healthful exercise which sharp weather never fails to induce.

The trees are denuded of their green attire, as if purposely to form a study for the artist and the lover of nature, spreading forth their thousand branches against the cold gray sky—their solid trunks (alike in summer or winter) rising from the green earth like pillars, and here and there wreathed with the clasping *ivy*[1] that gives ornament in return for support. Let us listen to the low call of the *robin redbreast*, as he flits pertly from the road side at our approach, or sings wildly sweet as he perches himself on the topmost twig of yonder thorn that has been suffered to outgrow the rest of the close-cut hedge.

Mild melodist! whose artless note,
At foggy eve, at chilly morn,
From nature's quiet haunts remote,
Here seems a harmony forlorn;
Fain would I give thee, for thy song,
A carol simple as thy own;
For thou, sweet bird! awak'st a throng
Of thoughts which rise for thee alone.

It is not that thy lay is fraught
With music, like the skylark's strain,
Or nightingale's, so sweetly caught
By listening ear, in midnight's reign;

[1] *To the* Ivy Tree.

Wind, gentle Evergreen, thy spreading arms
Round Dodo's antient tow'rs; and from the blast
Of winter, shield them with thy mantling charms,
That they to Time's remotest morn may last.
Lodged in thy leaves, the birds of various wing
Shall, [illegible]-strained, their mossy mansions form,
And round each pond'ring visitant shall sing,
Safe from the truant schoolboy and the storm.
Spread, gentle *Evergreen!* thy branches kind
O'er Dodo's castle.—Awful in decay;
Let them around his loftiest turrets wind,
And deck with sober green his ruins grey.
—Ah! could I, thus, the wretched poor and old
[illegible]red by Time and worn with cruel cares)
Shield with a cov'ring from the piercing cold,
And bless with comfort their declining years;
More sweet, fair Evergreen! the task would be,
Than round these aged tow'rs implanting thee.

Nor has thy note that deeper sound,
Of which my heart has felt the thrall,
When I have heard, from groves profound,
The lone wood-pigeon's frequent call.

But these, each one, and all, give vent
To song, where song is wont to flow;
Thou, thou art sweetly eloquent,
With nothing near to wake that glow
Of music, in the haunts of men,
Which, amid buildings clustered round,
From time to time arrests my pen,
And makes me listen to its sound.

But not for me, alone, thy song
Dost thou at eve and morn awake;
On other ears, amid this throng
Of buildings, it may sweetly break:
Bed-ridden age, perchance, may hear
Those soft and simple strains of thine;
And scenes, and hours long past, may cheer
Its grief, as they have lightened mine.

BERNARD BARTON[1].

The severe weather usually experienced in February breaks up with a sudden thaw, accompanied with wind and rain; torrents of water pour from the hills, and the snow is completely dissolved. This circumstance is thus beautifully alluded to by an admired modern poet:—

Yet, one relief this glance of former years
Brought mingled with its pain,—tears, floods of tears,
Long frozen at her heart, but now like rills
Let loose in spring-time, from the snowy hills,
And gushing warm, after a sleep of frost,
Through valleys where their flow had long been lost!

In some seasons, February is remarkable for mild and open weather; and many a morning in January and February 1822, prompted us to exclaim, with the Bard of Avon,

The seasons change their manners, as if the year
Had found some months asleep, and leaped them over.

[1] Napoleon and other Poems (T. Boys), pp. 118-124.

Generally, however, the unfolding vegetation suffers greatly by the equally unseasonable *reduction* in temperature experienced in the month of March.

About the 4th or 5th of the month, the woodlark *(alauda arborea)*, one of our earliest and sweetest songsters, renews his note; the thrush sings, and the yellow-hammer and chaffinch are heard. Tom-tits are seen hanging on the eaves of barns and thatched out-houses, particularly if the weather be snowy and severe. Rooks *(corvus frugilegus)* now revisit their breeding trees, and arrange the stations of their future nests. See some interesting particulars of the tom-tit in our last volume, p. 50, and of the rook in p. 52.

The harsh, loud voice of the missel thrush *(turdus viscivorus)* is now heard from the summit of some tall tree, where he takes his stand, announcing the advance of one of those bitter icy storms, that characterize this shivering period of our year. He is a wild and wary bird, keeping generally upon open commons, and lonely places, far from the usual haunts of man; but in severe weather he approaches our plantations and orchards, to feed upon the bright berries of the holly, and those of the misseltoe: even then, however, he preserves his instinctive wariness. In April and May he begins building, and now, requiring the protection of man, he resorts to the garden, and becomes a bold, pugnacious bird: he immediately abandons our domains, and returns to his solitudes, when his brood can follow him. The enemies he seeks to avoid are the magpie and the crow, which, at this season of the year, being particularly pinched for food, feed upon the eggs of every bird they can find. Owing to the size and open situation in which the nest of the missel thrush is placed, it could rarely escape plunder from these birds, did not the instinctive apprehension of danger deter his enemies from venturing too near the asylum he has sought; but even here these rapacious crea-

tures will occasionally dare to penetrate, when they are immediately attacked, and generally driven away by the missel thrush, with a hawk-like fury, which at no other period it seems to possess. This extraordinary change of character, from timidity to rage, this natural love of offspring, seems to be a peculiar influence of Providence actuating almost the whole race of animated beings: but we have few examples where a lonely and shy creature abandons its natural haunts, and associates with those it fears, to preserve its young from almost certain ruin, by an enemy more merciless and destructive.

Towards the end of February or beginning of March, if the weather be mild, the hedge-sparrow *(motacilla modularis)* commences its chirping note, as indicative of the approach of the pairing season. —See our last volume, pp. 54, 55.

Turkey-cocks now strut and gobble. Partridges *(tetrao perdix)* begin to pair; the house-pigeon has young; field-crickets open their holes; and wood-owls hoot: gnats play about, and insects swarm under sunny hedges; the stone-curlew (*otis œdicnemus*) clamours; and frogs *(rana temporaria)* croak. By the end of February, the raven (*corvus corax*) has generally laid its eggs, and begun to sit. Moles (*talpa europæus)* commence their subterraneous operations.—See T. T. for 1814, p. 49, and T. T. for 1818, p. 43.

About this time the green-woodpecker (*picus viridis*) is heard in the woods, making a loud noise.

But few flowers appear in this month: among these are the dwarf-bay *(daphne mezereon)*, the laurustinus (*viburnum tinus*), and the great henbit (*lamium amplexicaule*). The catkins of the alder (*betula alnus*) are now seen.

Among the phenomena which vegetation presents in this usually dreary month, the *blackthorn* stands pre-eminent. While the embryo of the pea is inclosed within a more delicate folding, protected, as

it were, by a thatch formed around it, and enabled, by a kind of mechanical power given to the blossom that contains it, to turn its back to the wind, we see the blackthorn in the hedge, revelling in the northern blast, and finding life and vigour in the blighting mists of an easterly wind, but nipt in the bud by the genial warmth of a mild spring. From hence the term *blackthorn winter*, given to a cold and backward season, of which the last was more than an ordinary sample. In this year (1823), frosty nights, and some severe ones producing ice, continued till May, making sad havock among the early fruits in the garden, while the blackthorn was seen in the most luxuriant bloom. The blackthorn is a native of the northern countries; but though superior for agricultural purposes as a fence against cattle, it is not so generally cultivated as the whitethorn, being more uncertain of growth, in consequence, no doubt, of feeling the effect of the season.

Mosses also demand our attention in this month. —See T.T. for 1822, pp. 51, 52.

In February, the *horticulturist* is busily occupied; 'from dawn of day till setting sun' he is found accompanied by incessant, yet delightful toils and cares. Each portion of the soil is now manured and brought in its order under the spade, preparatory to receiving the early and main crops for the supply of the year. Hot beds are prepared, 'potent to resist the freezing blast' for the production of the melon, and

> To raise the prickly and green-coated gourd
> So grateful to the palate, and when rare
> So coveted, else base and disesteemed—
> Food for the vulgar merely.

Planting and pruning are nearly completed this month in the fruit garden. The beds and borders of the pleasure-grounds are also put in order for the reception of the various plants and seeds destined to be committed to their bosom.

MARCH.

AMONG the Romans, March, from Mars, was the first month; and marriages made in this month were accounted unhappy.

Remarkable Days

In MARCH 1824.

1. SAINT DAVID.

SAINT David was the great ornament and pattern of his age. He continued in the see of St. David's many years; and having founded several monasteries, and been the spiritual father of many saints, both British and Irish, he died about the year 544, at a very advanced age.—Miles Davies, a native of Flintshire, composed a *Latin Poem* on the subject of St. David's Day, upon which the *author* thought his *fame* would rest. It is entitled, *'Martis Calendæ, sive laudes Cambro-Britannicæ;* in this poem, if poem it may be called, eulogy seems to have run wild, and to have climbed the highest mountains in Cambria: we will not fatigue our readers with a *specimen* of this piece, long since buried in oblivion.—See our last volume, p. 56, for an account of a curious custom formerly practised at *Stepney* on this day.

**1.* 1818.—THOMAS PLEASANTS DIED,

One of the most benevolent individuals the world ever saw. He was a native of Ireland, and a resident in that unhappy isle. In consequence of the distress of the woollen weavers in 1814, in Dublin (in number about 22,000), who, during the months too inclement to dry their cloths in the open air, were thrown out of employ, and suffered every privation and distress, Parliament was petitioned, and opulent individuals were applied to in vain, to raise £3500, to erect a building in which they might dry and

prepare their cloths. Every proposal failed; when Thomas Pleasants, being possessed of a larger share of *true* feeling and humanity, in April 1814 purchased a piece of ground, and erected that useful and elegant building *the Stove Tenter House*, at an expense of upwards of £14,000. In seasons of distress his humanity was always on the alert. He gave, in a time of calamity, £10,000 to the Meath Hospital; he presented the Dublin Society with £100 worth of valuable books; and at the expense of nearly £700 he erected the beautiful gates and lodges at their botanical garden near the city. By his will he bequeathed £22,000 in various charities, and gave his magnificent collection of paintings to the Dublin Society for the encouragement of the fine arts in Ireland; that country he so much loved, and of which he was one of the brightest ornaments.

2.—SAINT CHAD.

St. *Ceadda* or Chad was educated in the monastery of Lindisfarne, under St. Aidan; was afterwards Bishop of Lichfield, and died in the great pestilence of 673.

2.—SHROVE TUESDAY.

This is called 'Fastern's E'en,' and 'Pancake Tuesday.' *Shrove* is the preterite of *shrive*, an antiquated word, which signifies to hear, or make confession.—See our former volumes.

3.—ASH WEDNESDAY.

Formerly Lent began on the Sunday after *Quinquagesima*, i. e. our first Sunday in Lent, and ended at Easter, containing in all 42 days; and subtracting the six Sundays which are not fasts, there remained only 36 fasting days, the tenth part of 360, the number of days in the antient year, then considered as a tythe of the year consecrated to God's service. To these 36 fasting-days, however, of the *Old-Lent*, Gregory added four days more, to render it equal to the time of our Saviour's fasting, causing it to begin on *Ash Wednesday*, three days after *Quinquagesima*;

and thus it has remained ever since. Lent is not of apostolic institution, nor was it known in the earlier ages of the Christian church.

The three days preceding Ash-Wednesday, the last of the *Carnival*, are celebrated in *Spain* with many curious sports and amusements. Those still in use among the middling ranks of Andalusia, are, swinging, playing all manner of tricks on the unwary—such as breaking egg-shells full of powdered talc on the head, and throwing handfuls of small sugar-plums at the ladies, which they repay with besprinkling the assailants with water from a squirt. This last practical joke, however, begins to be disused, and increased refinement will soon put an end to them all. Dancing, and a supper to the frequenters of the daily *Tertulia*, is, on one of the three days of Carnival, a matter of course among the wealthy. Among other practices, that of *sticking a tail*, alluded to by Horace (Sat. II, iii), is still in use among the boys in the streets of Seville, to the great annoyance of old ladies, who are generally the objects of this sport. One of the ragged striplings that wander in crowds about Seville, having tagged a piece of paper with a hooked pin, and stolen unperceived behind some slow-paced female—as, wrapped up in her veil, she tells the beads she carries in her left hand—fastens the paper-tail on the back of the black or walking petticoat called *Saya*. The whole gang of ragamuffins, who, at a convenient distance, have watched the dexterity of their companion, set up a loud cry of *Lárgalo, lárgalo*—Drop it, drop it—which makes every female in the street look to the rear, which, they well know, is the fixed point of attack with the merry light troops. The alarm continues till some friendly hand relieves the victim of sport, who, spinning and nodding like a spent top, tries in vain to catch a glance at the fast-pinned paper, unmindful of the physical law which

forbids her head revolving faster than the great orbit on which the ominous comet flies.

Now mark their mirth—ere lenten days begin,
That penance which their holy rites prepare
To shrive from man his weight of mortal sin,
By daily abstinence and nightly prayer;
But ere his sackcloth garb Repentance wear,
Some days of joyaunce are decreed to all,
To take of pleasaunce each his secret share,
In motley robe to dance at masquing hall,
And join the mimic train of merry Carnival. BYRON.

The frolics of Carnival, in Spain, are sometimes carried on till the dawn of this day, the first of the long fast of Lent, when a sudden and most unpleasant transition takes place for such as have set no bounds to the noisy mirth of the preceding season. But, as the religious duties of the church begin at midnight, the amusements of Shrove Tuesday cease, in the more correct families, at twelve, just as the Opera is hurried on Saturdays that it may not encroach on the following day.

Midnight is, indeed, a most important period with the Spaniards. The obligation of fasting begins just when the leading clock of every town strikes twelve; and as no priest can celebrate mass, on any day whatever, if he has taken the smallest portion of meat or drink after the beginning of the civil day, clergymen may be seen devouring their supper against time, the watch upon the table, and the anxious eye upon the fatal hand, while large mouthfuls, chasing one another down their almost convulsed throats, appear to threaten suffocation. Such hurry will seem incredible to well-fed Englishmen, for whom supper is an empty name. Not so to the Spanish divines, who having had their dinner at one, and a cup of chocolate at six, feel strongly the necessity of a substantial supper before they retire to bed. A priest, therefore, who, by some untoward accident, is overtaken by the dead waste and mid-

dle of the night,' with a craving stomach, having to perform mass at a late hour next morning, may well feel alarmed at his impending sufferings. 'The strictness' (observes Don L. Doblado) 'in fact, with which the rule of receiving the Sacrament into a fasting stomach is observed, will hardly be believed in a Protestant country. I have known many a profligate priest, yet never but once met with any who ventured to break this sacramental fast; and the infraction of this rule would strike horror into every Catholic bosom.'

The following are the rules of the Roman Catholic fast, which all persons above the age of one-and-twenty are bound to observe during Lent, Sundays excepted. One meal alone, from which flesh, eggs, milk, and all its preparations, such as cheese and butter, called *Lacticinia*, are excluded, is allowed on a fast day. It is under this severe form that the English and Irish Catholics are bound to keep their Lent. But the Spaniards are the darlings of their Mother Church of Rome, and enjoy most valuable privileges. The *Bull of the Crusade*, in the first place, dispenses with their abstinence from eggs and milk. Besides throwing open the hen-house and dairy, the said Bull unlocks the treasure of laid-up merits, of which the Pope keeps the key, and thus they are refreshed both in body and soul, at the trifling cost of about three pence a-year.

The *Bull of the Crusade* is proclaimed, every year before Lent, by the sound of kettle-drums and trumpets. As no one can enjoy the privileges expressed in these papal rescripts without possessing a printed copy thereof, wherein the name of the owner is inserted, there is a house at Seville with a printing-office, by far the most extensive in Andalusia, where, at the expense of Government, these Bulls are reprinted every year, both for Spain and Spanish America. Now, it has been wisely arranged that, on the day of the yearly publication, the copies for

the preceding twelvemonth should become absolutely stale and unprofitable; a measure which produces a most prodigious hurry to obtain new Bulls in all who wish well to their souls, and do not quite overlook the ease and comfort of their stomachs.

The article *of Bulls* holds a conspicuous station in the Spanish budget. The price of the copies being, however, more than double in Spanish America, it is from thence that the chief profit of this spiritual juggle arises. Cargoes of this holy paper are sent over every year by Government to all the transatlantic possessions; and one of the most severe consequences of a war with England is the difficulty of conveying these ghostly treasures to their brethren of the New World, no less than that of bringing back the worldly, yet necessary dross which they give in exchange to the Mother-country.—*(Doblado's Letters on Spain, p. 270.)*

7.—PERPETUA.

Perpetua, a noble lady of Carthage, only twenty-two years of age, suffered martyrdom in 203, by order of Minutius Firmianus, under the persecution of the Emperor Severus.

10, 12, 13.—EMBER DAYS.

There are *four* Ember Weeks in the year, namely, after the first Sunday in Lent, after the feast of Pentecost, after the 14th of September, and after the 13th of December. It is enjoined by a canon of the church, 'that Deacons and Ministers be ordained, or made, but only on the Sundays immediately following these Ember feasts.'—*(Nelson.)*

*11. 1823.—REV. W. BINGLEY DIED.

The book which boasts of a *Naturalist's Diary*, must not pass over without notice the death of this distinguished Naturalist. Mr. Bingley gave an interest to Natural History by adding anecdote to dry description. His *Animal Biography* (now placed, together with his *Useful Knowledge*, on the Supplemental Catalogue of the Society for Promoting Chris-

tian Knowledge) unites amusement with science; and his *History of British Quadrupeds*, illustrated by the animated etchings of *Howitt*, deserves a place in every collection of books. Our pages have been often distinguished by extracts from this correct, useful, and elegant writer.

12.—SAINT GREGORY.

Saint Gregory, surnamed the Great, was born about the year 540. He was consecrated Pope about the year 590, and died in 604. Before his advancement to the see, Gregory projected the conversion of the English nation, but did not accomplish his wishes until he had assumed the papal chair.

*15. 1818.—HECTOR MACNEILL DIED, ÆT. 72.

His 'Will and Jean,' one of his most beautiful Scottish poems, in less than seven weeks after its publication, went through five editions of 1500 copies each, and of which fourteen editions were thrown off before the end of the year. During the last fifteen years of his life he resided in Edinburgh. Besides his 'Poetical Works,' 2 vol. 12mo, 1st edition, 1801, 2d, 1806, and 3d, 1812, he published in 4to, 1809, 'The Pastoral or Lyric Muse of Scotland;' in 12mo, 3d edition, 1812, 'By-gane Times and late-come Changes;' and in the same year, 'The Scottish Adventurers, or the Way to Rise,' a novel, 2 vol. 12mo. He also wrote 'On the Treatment of the Negroes in Jamaica,' 8vo, 1788; and an account of the caves of Elephanta, Canary, and Ambola, published in the 8th vol. of the Archæologia.

The following is an extract from 'Grandeur, an Ode,' which, from its exquisite description of local scenery, 'to nature true,' and its pensive morality, may be pronounced worthy of a Collins or a Gray:—

How varied lies the chequered scene,
DEMYET capt with snow;
While humbler smiles, in vernal green,
The sun-clad vale below:

Gay Spring her cheering task performs,
Regardless of the wintry storms
That sweep proud Ochil's lofty side;
And sheltered from the mountain gale,
Secure, smooth glides the winding sail
Down Forth's meandering tide.

Alas! how like the chequered state
Of man's contracted lot!
The storms that whirl round Grandeur's gate;
The peasant's sheltered cot;
Disdainful pride, with wintry brow;
Rough labour jocund at his plough,
Still cheered by health's unclouded beam;
While safe from luxury's whelming tide,
Peace, hope, and resignation, glide
Down life's untroubled stream.

17.—SAINT PATRICK.

The tutelar saint of Ireland was born in the year 371, in a village called *Bonaven Taberniæ*, probably Kilpatrick, in Scotland, between Dumbriton and Glasgow. He died at the good old age of 123, and was buried at Down, in Ulster.

The author of a life of St. Patrick, printed at St. Omer's, in 1625, says that the biography of our saint will abundantly teach 'how stupendious he was in perpetrating of miracles.' He will, he says, 'furnish the scrip of your memories with bright stones taken up out of the torrent of our glorious apostle's life, wherewith, if you charge the sling of your tongues, the weakest among you shall be able to encounter and cast down every temerarious and Goliath-hearted protestant.' This biographer of St. Patrick, among other ridiculous tales, relates that the Saint made a rousing fire 'with ice alone; that fire dropped from his fingers, and dried up the waters of an inundation; that he transported a leper to Ireland upon an altar-stone, which served for the passage better than the best life-boat could have done; that he himself effected his landing there in the face of a legion of evil spirits drawn up to oppose him;

that at sundry times he made the earth swallow sundry magicians; that he raised many persons from the dead whose bodies had long been resolved to dust; that he moved a mountain to accommodate a noble of Munster, whose view from his dwelling was obstructed by it, and brought the mountain back as easily as he had displaced it, when the said noble refused to let him build a church, which he had promised, if the miracle was performed; that, when it rained, his sanctity served as great coat and umbrella to keep him perfectly dry; that when he walked at night, it was by the light of his own fingers; and that, having cleared Ireland of magicians and evil spirits, he marched the venomous creatures of all kinds, by which it was overrun, to a promontory, and made them cast themselves into the sea.'

The Romish Church possessing and exercising, wherever it was established, a control over the press, authorized the publication of similar legends, not as spiritual romances (like the life and death of Mr. Badman, the Pilgrim's Progress, and the Holy War), but as *authentic* biography!

18.—EDWARD KING OF THE WEST SAXONS.

EDWARD *(the younger*, or, as he is more frequently called, the Martyr), who was Edgar's son by his first wife, succeeded him, though not without opposition from Elfrida, Edgar's widow, who was anxious to secure the crown for her son Ethelred, when an infant of seven years of age. This short and uninteresting reign was fully occupied with ecclesiastical disputes between the monks and the regular clergy. The youthful monarch in vain attempted to mediate between these contending factions. He seems to have been an amiable prince, but wanting in that energy and decision of character which the state of the times rendered necessary. He fell a victim to the ambition of his stepmother Elfrida, to whom he had uniformly shown the utmost kindness. Having been engaged one day in hunting

near her castle, he called to inquire after her health. With seeming courtesy, she presented him with a goblet of wine; but while in the act of drinking, on a signal from herself, one of the domestics stabbed him in the back. Perceiving himself wounded and alone in the midst of enemies, he set spurs to his horse, but soon fainted with loss of blood, and, having been unable to extricate his foot from the stirrup, was dashed in pieces. Many marvellous tales are related, among the legendary fables of that age, of the miracles wrought at his tomb, for which reason he has been numbered among the martyrs by the Romish church, though his death is to be attributed solely to political jealousy. His murderess, according to the frequent practice of those superstitious times, sought to tranquillize her conscience, and make atonement for her offence, by retiring from the world, shutting herself up in a convent, and founding several nunneries[1].

21.—SAINT BENEDICT.

Benedict, or *Bennet*, founded the monastery of Cassino, in 529: it was built on the brow of a very high mountain, on the top of which there was an old temple of Apollo, surrounded with a grove. The Benedictine order of monks, first instituted by our saint, was, in the ninth century, at its height of glory.

*24. 1810.—MARY TIGHE DIED,

A very superior woman, both in mind and acquirements. Her beautiful poem of *Psyche* will be remembered as long as elegance and classical taste can excite admiration, nor will her minor poems be

[1] *Morell's Studies in History* (History of England), in two volumes, 8vo, vol. i, p. 91. We are happy in having an opportunity of recommending this gentleman's *Studies in History*, not only on the History of England, but also on the Histories of Greece and Rome, each in one volume, as one of the best for young readers, and even for readers of a more advanced age. They are divided into *Essays*, or Chapters, and to each Essay is annexed *Reflections*, in the manner of Doddridge and of Orton, on the sacred scriptures, considering every event and character by the light of the Gospel; and, thus, making them *examples* either to be imitated or avoided.

spon forgotten. With the profits arising from the above poems, a hospital ward has been endowed and attached to the House of Refuge (a charitable institution founded by her mother in the county of Wicklow), which is called 'The Psyche Ward.'

25.—ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, *or* LADY-DAY.

This day celebrates the angel's message to the Virgin Mary, respecting our Blessed Lord. She was, probably, an only child, and but fifteen years of age when espoused to Joseph. She died A.D. 48, being about sixty years old.—For an interesting account of the *festa* of the Annunciation as observed at Rome on this day, see our last volume, p. 63.

In further illustration of this day, we quote the following from *Doblado's Letters* (p. 316):—

'There is an allusion in Hudibras to an antiquated piece of gallantry, which may be illustrated by a religious custom prevalent in Spain: Butler says,

> I'll carve your name on barks of trees
> With true love-knots and flourishes,——
> *And drink every letter on't in stum,*
> *And make it brisk Champagne become.*

'The latter compliment is paid by sick persons to the Virgin Mary, in the hopes of recovering health through her intercession. An image is worshipped at one of the principal parish churches in Seville, under the title of the *Virgin of Health*. The charm of this denomination draws numbers to the sanctuary, which being in the centre of the wealthiest population, derives considerable splendour from their offerings. In exchange for these they often receive a sheet of printed paper, containing at regular intervals the words *Salus infirmorum*, in a very small type. In case of illness, one of the lines is cut off, and, being coiled into a small roll, the patient swallows it in a glass of water. The room where a person lies dangerously ill, generally contains more relics and amulets than the chimney-piece of an in-

valid, under the care of a London apothecary, holds phials of all shapes and sizes.'

*25. 1823.—CLOSE OF THE SURREY INSTITUTION.

When we look back to the peculiar advantages which this place offered to the young and inexperienced, and to the pleasant relaxation which it afforded to those advanced in years, who here whiled away their hours in an agreeable and improving occupation; when we recollect the very useful and excellent library of more than 6000 volumes, which was ever open to the wants of the subscribers; and, above all, the various *Courses of Lectures* which were delivered at this Institution; we cannot but regret that the *wealthy and enlightened inhabitants of the* COUNTY OF SURREY should have suffered this temple of knowledge to fall into irrecoverable ruin. But the scientific and literary prelections delivered at the Surrey Institution deserve something more than a cursory notice. We shall briefly enumerate some of the most distinguished persons who added lustre to the Lecture Room of this Institution.—Among those who have paid the debt of nature may be named Dr. SHAW, the able and scientific Zoologist; and Dr. LETTSOM, the humane and benevolent Philanthropist. Among the living luminaries we may mention Mr. SAMUEL WESLEY, and the correct and tasteful CROTCH. In Chemistry, Dr. THOMSON and Mr. MURRAY. In Physics, Mr. (now Dr.) MASON GOOD. In Mechanics and Experimental Philosophy, Mr. MILLINGTON, who is now a Professor in the Royal Institution, and whose *first lecture*, we believe, was delivered at the Surrey. In Geology, Mr. BAKEWELL; on the Philosophy of Art, Mr. LANDSEER; on Perspective, Mr JOHN GEORGE WOOD; on Architecture, Mr. ELMES; on various branches of the Belles Lettres, the discriminating HAZLITT and the lofty and truly poetic COLERIDGE; on Aërostatics, the aëronaut SADLER; on Experimental Philosophy, Mr. PARTINGTON, one of the

Librarians of the London Institution; on the Steam Engine, Mr. WEBSTER; and on Pneumatics and Electricity, the ingenious, lucid, and indefatigable Mr. CHARLES WOODWARD, whose *gratuitous* labours in the field of science are worthy of all praise.

A great deal has been said respecting the fate of Literary Institutions in the metropolis, and abundant vituperation has been bestowed upon the managers of these establishments:—the Surrey Institution did not escape this general obloquy; with what justice, we will briefly inquire. At the commencement of this Institution, each subscriber paid thirty guineas for his share. And for this moderate sum he had, or might have had, *fourteen years* full and free enjoyment of this excellent and well-conducted establishment. He had daily access to a room containing the Morning and Evening Papers, Gazettes, &c. —to a room containing the principal Magazines and Reviews, and every new book of character;—to an extensive library of reference, consisting of the most valuable works:—to an excellent and well selected library of circulation, containing popular and standard books, and the best floating literature of the day: and twice a week, for six months in the year, to LECTURES, illustrated by the most curious and costly experiments; to which may be added the use of philosophical apparatus, and access to a convenient and well-arranged Laboratory. All these and other advantages every Subscriber to the Surrey Institution might have enjoyed every day, from eight o'clock in the morning till ten at night, *for fourteen years*, for THIRTY GUINEAS!!! Surely this establishment could not have been *very* badly managed. For our parts, we think with an ingenious author, 'that Literary Institutions are the cheapest of all the known methods of diffusing knowledge;' and whatever may be the sentiments of those who have not attended the Library and Lectures of the Surrey Institution, we have no hesitation in saying, that while we award

the full meed of praise to the other Literary Institutions of the metropolis, we think that no establishment of this nature was more ably conducted, or succeeded better in combining 'the useful with the agreeable,' and at a moderate expense, than the SURREY INSTITUTION.

Mr. WOODWARD, to whom we have already alluded, delivered the last Lecture in this Institution. In conclusion he observed, 'The idea that this night the doors of this Institution will be finally closed, must be a matter of the deepest regret to all the lovers of science; to me personally, because here I have formed friendships that I trust will last me as long as I have life. I would that I had the power to keep this Theatre of the Arts and Sciences still open; but if the valuable inventions of a Gurney[1], if the delicate touch and melodious strains of a Crotch, have failed to induce you to write a *da capo* in the subscription books of the Institution—I cannot hope to succeed, when such ability and talent have been exerted in vain. It is for me only to regret, that, in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis of this great Empire, an Institution which has called forth so great talent, and elicited so much genius, should henceforth cease to promulgate knowledge, and disseminate a love of literature and science; but its name shall live and flourish, when its walls shall moulder to decay, and leave not a wreck behind.'

The whole of the property of this valuable establishment was sold by auction by Mr. SAUNDERS; and the Library produced so large a sum of money, that the Proprietors were enabled to present a very handsome testimonial of their approbation to the

[1] It is due to the Managers of the Surrey Institution to state, that Mr. GOLDSWORTHY GURNEY, in his Lectures on Chemistry at this place, first, and under their auspices, introduced to the public his newly-invented *oxy-hydrogen blowpipe*, whose simplicity, perfect safety, intensity, and power, have elicited the admiration of every chemist and lover of science.

officers connected with the establishment; each of the *seven hundred* Proprietors will, also, we understand, receive something more than a *sovereign* balm for his sorrows at the close of the Institution.

28.—MIDLENT SUNDAY.

The middle or fourth Sunday in Lent was formerly called the Sunday of the Five Loaves, the Sunday of Bread, and the Sunday of Refreshment, in allusion to the gospel appointed for this day. It was also named *Rose Sunday*, from the Pope's carrying a *golden rose* in his hand, which he exhibited to the people in the streets as he went to celebrate the eucharist, and at his return.

On this day, in the south of Spain, children of all ranks, those of the poor in the street, and such as belong to the better classes in their houses, appear fantastically decorated, not unlike the English chimney sweepers on May-Day, with caps of gilt and coloured paper, and coats made of the *crusade bulls* (see p. 65) of the preceding year. In this attire they keep up an incessant din the whole of the day, and complete their revel by sawing in two the figure of an old woman, which is meant as the emblem of Lent. There is little ground, however, for these peevish feelings against old Lent, among the class that exhibits them most; for few of the poorer inhabitants of large towns taste any meat in the course of the year; and living as they do upon a very scanty pittance of bread and pulse, they can ill afford to confine themselves to one meal in the four and twenty hours. The privations of the fasting season are felt chiefly by that numerous class who, unable to dispel their superstitious fear, and wanting, on the other hand, a strong sense of religious duty, submit like unwilling slaves to the unwelcome task which they dare not omit. Many, however, fall off before the end of Lent, and take to their breakfasts and suppers under the sanction of some good-natured doctor, who declares fasting injurious to their health.

Others, whose healthy looks would belie the dispensing physician, compound between the church and their stomachs, by adding an ounce of bread to the cup of chocolate which, under the name of *parvedad*, the divines of Spain admit as a venial infraction. There is, besides, a fast-day supper, which was introduced by those good souls the primitive monks at their evening conferences, where, finding that an empty stomach was apt to increase the hollowness of their heads, they allowed themselves a crust of bread and a glass of water, as a support to their fainting eloquence.

Astronomical Occurrences

In MARCH 1824.

All these stupendous objects are daily around us; but because they are constantly exposed to our view, they never affect our minds: so natural is it for us to admire new, rather than grand objects. Therefore the VAST MULTITUDE OF STARS, which diversify the beauty of this immense body, does not call the people together; but when any *change* happens therein, the eyes of all are fixed upon the heavens.—ST. BASIL.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Aries at 32 m. after 3 in the afternoon of the 20th of this month; and he rises and sets during the same period as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

	Sun rises		Sets	
March 1st,	36 m. after 6.		24 m. past	5
6th,	25	6	35	5
11th,	16	6	44	5
16th,	6	6	54	5
21st,	56	5	4	6
26th,	46	5	14	6
31st,	36	5	24	6

Equation of Time.

To change apparent into mean time, the following numbers must be added to the former, for the respective days given in the subsequent

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

		m.	s.
Monday, March 1st, to the time by the dial	*add*	12	36
Saturday, ... 6th, ...		11	30
Thursday, ... 11th, ...		10	13
Tuesday, ... 16th, ...		8	48
Sunday, ... 21st, ...		7	18
Friday, ... 26th, ...		5	46
Wednesday, 31st, ...		4	13

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	8th day, at	9 m.	after	2	in the afternoon
Full Moon, ...	15th, ...	37	.....	5	in the morning
Last Quarter,	22d, ...	11	.....	11	.....
New Moon, ...	30th, ...	2	.....	3	in the afternoon

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits of the Moon will afford good opportunities of observation during this month, should the weather prove favourable; viz.

March 7th, at	2 m. past	5	in the afternoon
8th, ...	0	6	.....
9th, ...	0	7	in the evening
10th, ...	0	8	.....
11th, ...	58	8	.....
12th, ...	54	9	.....
13th, ...	48	10	at night
14th, ...	40	11	.....
22d, ...	50	5	in the morning
23d, ...	41	6	.....
24th, ...	29	7	.....
25th, ...	14	8	.....
26th, ...	58	8	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

The phases of this planet will bear the following proportions to each other, and to the whole disk, at the commencement of this month: viz.

March 1st,	Illuminated part	9·33052
	Dark part.....	2·66948

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

The following eight eclipses of the first and second of these satellites will be visible at the Royal Observatory this month: viz.

Emersions.

First Satellite,	7th day,	at	31 m.	20 s.	after 1	in the morning
	8th		0	8	8	in the evening
	15th		55	32	9	
	22d		50	58	11	at night
	31st		15	19	8	
Second Satellite,	3d		10	9	11	
	11th		47	2	1	in the morning
	28th		18	40	8	at night

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
	TRANSITS.				
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	10 16 *mor.*	10 26	10 35	10 48	11 2
Venus	9 32 *mor.*	9 40	9 47	9 54	10 1
Mars	1 53 *aft.*	1 34	1 6	0 36	0 6
Jupiter	7 14 *even.*	6 52	6 32	6 12	5 52
Saturn	4 17 *aft.*	3 56	3 36	3 17	2 57
G. Sidus	8 15 *mor.*	7 50	7 29	7 8	6 47
	MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.				
Mercury	21°14′	22°42′	24°55′	27°56′	31°40′
Venus	19 20	20 49	22 36	24 39	26 56
Mars	36 56	37 30	38 11	38 56	39 45
Jupiter	62 1	62 1	62 2	62 2	62 2
Saturn	53 54	54 3	54 13	54 23	54 33
G. Sidus	15 28	15 30	15 31	15 32	15 33

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

March 9th,	with Jupiter,	at 14 m.	after 1	in the afternoon
10th,	♑ in Gemini	0	2	
23d,	G. Sidus	34	2	

Mars will be in conjunction with γ in Virgo at 3 in the morning of the 17th. Jupiter will be in quadrature at 45 m. after 6 in the evening of the 22d; and Mars will be in opposition at 4 in the morning of the 25th of this month.

As months roll on, the heavens present a varied scene—'tis but varied grandeur—ever calculated to excite the liveliest imagination of the poet, and elevate the soul of Nature's student, who gazes and admires in silent awe.

But why should the *soul* rest on *material* things? Oh! look up through Nature to Nature's God, and devoutly adore the GREAT FIRST CAUSE!

'Twas when the world was in its prime,
When the *fresh stars* had just begun
Their race of glory, and young Time
Told his first birth-days by the Sun:

Oh, what a vision were the stars,
When first I saw them burn on high,
Rolling along, like living cars
Of light, for gods to journey by!

They were my heart's first passion;—days
And nights, unwearied, in their rays
Have I hung floating, till each sense
Seemed full of their bright influence.

Often—so much I loved to trace
The secrets of this starry race—
Have I at morn and evening run
Along the lines of radiance spun,
Like webs, between them, and the Sun,
Untwisting all the tangled ties
Of light into their different dyes;
Then fleetly winged I off, in quest
Of those, the farthest, loneliest,
That watch, like winking sentinels,
The void, beyond which chaos dwells,
And there, with noiseless plume, pursued
Their track through that grand solitude,
Asking intently, all and each,
What soul within their radiance dwelt,
And wishing their sweet lights were speech,
That they might tell me all they felt.

Nay, oft, so passionate my chase
Of these resplendent heirs of space,
Oft did I follow—lest a ray
Should 'scape me in the farthest night—
Some pilgrim *Comet*, on his way
To visit distant climes of light;
And well remember how I sung
Exulting out, when on my sight
New worlds of stars, all fresh and young,
As if, just born of darkness, sprung.

Loves of the Angels.

The Naturalist's Diary

For MARCH 1824.

MARCH follows next: the voice of song
Is heard, and gardens brightly bloom;
Though stormy winds may sweep along,
Their sound inspires no moody gloom;
Though clouds, at times, perchance may lower,
We look beyond the present hour! B. BARTON.

ALL vegetation, awakening from the torpor of its winter existence, is now gradually developed, and, in the succeeding month, bursts into all its gaiety of life: each plant with unerring order advances into the fairy ranks of Nature; and each, as it rises, fails not to pourtray, by perpetual change, the boundless power and beneficence of its great Creator. At the beginning of this month, among the first indications of returning life in the vegetable world, may be seen the dark-tinted sprouts of culinary or spear-mint (*mentha viridis*), and the buds of the gooseberry and currant bushes, which soon burst their scaly envelope, and show their leaflets[1].

The bullfinch now commences his ravages upon the swelling buds, and he is one of the feathered tribe that the horticulturist never spares; he blights the prospects of the year, without so much as giving the requital of a song. The azure flowers of the *hepatica*, one of the earliest offsprings of the year, and those of the laurel, are completely open. The leaves of the damask rose (*rosa centifolia*) are rapidly expanding; and thus awakened from her winter's trance, she calls from us the lay of Casimir:—

[1] In mild seasons these changes generally take place in *February*, as was the case [illegible]22;—but after a severe winter, as in 1823, vegetation just begin[illegible] awake from its hybernal slumbers.—For some botanical particulars in this month's Diary, we are indebted to the Horticultural Report in the London Magazine for April 1822.

Child of the summer, charming Rose,
No longer in confinement lie;
Arise to light; thy form disclose;
Rival the spangles of the sky.

The rains are gone; the storms are o'er;
Winter retires to make thee way:
Come then, thou sweetly blushing flower;
Come, lovely stranger, come away.

The autumn-planted brocoli is now becoming fit for use. The yellow wall-flower, 'stained with iron-brown,' ventures into life and fragrance. Crocuses crouching low upon the bosom of the parterres, as though afraid of the fickleness of the youthful year, are now generally in flower, and some of those which were the heralds of the tribe begin to droop. The tunicate sprout of the crown-imperial bursts from its earthen prison; thus by degrees 'Fair-handed Spring unbosoms every grace;' and with her too come the gardener's foes, the *weeds*, which are now advancing in growth and mischief, in multitudes 'far 'beyond the power of botanists to number up their tribes.'

All hate the rank society of weeds,
Noisome, and ever greedy to exhaust
Th' impoverished earth; an overbearing race,
That, like the multitude made faction-mad,
Disturb good order, and degrade true worth.

One of the foremost and most predatory of these is the nettle (*urtica urens*); 'this plant, with pellitory of the wall, may be said,' observes M. Brisseau Mirbel, 'to seek the society of man, and to haunt his footsteps:' this is the consequence of their requiring a soil containing nitrate of potass, which salt always abounds near the habitations of man. Hurtful to, and despised as is this weed by the cultivators of the soil, yet it is one of the comparatively few of the vegetable myriads of which man has discovered the utility. In the county of Salop, it is dressed and manufactured like flax into cloth; this is likewise the case in France, where too it is made into

paper: when dried, this plant is acceptable to sheep and oxen. In Russia, a green dye is obtained from its leaves, and a yellow one from its roots. In the spring, every person is aware that nettle-tops are made into a salutary pottage; and in Scotland they make a rennet from a decoction of it with common salt, for coagulating their milk in the making of cheese. A few flowerets of the white violets (*viola odorata*) now make their appearance, 'emblems, expressive emblems, of those virtues which delight to blossom in obscurity.' The swelling of the flower-buds of the wall-fruit gives notice to the gardener to prepare his matting and the branches of firs for their protection, since Spring oft—

> Brings her infants forth with many smiles;
> But once delivered, kills them with a frown.
> He, therefore, timely warned, himself supplies
> Her want of care, screening and keeping warm
> The plenteous bloom, that no rough blast may sweep
> His garlands from the boughs. Again, as oft
> As the sun peeps, and vernal airs breathe mild,
> The fence withdrawn, he gives them every beam,
> And spreads his hopes before the blaze of day.

The brilliantly verdant leaflets of the larch (*pinus larix*) are now expanded, as also are the crimson bourgeons of the peony, which have for some time protruded through the surface of the earth. The primrose (*primula veris*) is now appearing beneath every hedge—

> Low tenant of the peaceful glade,
> Emblem of virtue in the shade,
> Rearing its head to brave the storm
> That would its innocence deform.

'When I sat last on this primrose bank' (says old Isaak Walton), 'and looked down these meadows, I thought of them, as the Emperor Charles V did of the city of Florence, "that they were too pleasant to be looked on, but only on holidays."'—We have yet another tribute to our favourite primrose:—

The PRIMROSE.

Terrestrial flower,
Who risest in the spring,
And in the sun and shower
Art blossoming;

How chastely keep
The nightly dews on thee,
O'er which the light and darkness creep,
Unconsciously.

Thou givest youth
Instruction, for thy bed
Will shortly be the grave, in sooth,
For thy pale head.

The new year's leaves, in coronal shape of the martagon and white lily (*lilium candidum*), are rapidly advancing.

The melody of birds now gradually swells upon the ear. The throstle (*turdus musicus*), second only to the nightingale in song, charms us with the sweetness and variety of its lays. The linnet and the goldfinch join the general concert in this month, and the golden-crowned wren (*motacilla regulus*) begins its song. The *lark*, also, must not be forgotten:—

Alouette,
Ma doucelette mignolette,
Qui plus qu'un rossignol me plais
Qui chante en un bocage epais.

As it may gratify our readers to see a specimen of *Polish* poetry, we subjoin the following literal translation of

ORACZ I SKOWRONEK.

Juz spiewasz skowroneczku, iuz tez i ia orze etc.

The Ploughman and the Lark.—'Thou singest, my sweet lark, and I too begin to plow. The dawn and the twilight find us both at our labour—me at my plough, thee at thy song. God prosper thee, sweet songstress: do thou also wish me success. 'Tis for me and for thee, that I sow.'

In this month, black ants (*formica nigra*) are observed; the blackbird and the turkey (*meleagris gallopavo*) lay; and house pigeons sit. The greenfinch (*loxia chloris*) sings; the bat (*vespertilio*) is seen flit-

ting about; and the viper uncoils itself from its winter sleep. The wheatear, or English ortolan *(sylvia œnanthe)*, again pays its annual visit, leaving England in September.

Those birds which have passed the winter in England now take their departure for more northerly regions; as the fieldfare *(turdus pilaris)*, the redwing *(turdus iliacus)*, and the woodcock *(scolopax rusticola)*.

On the 20th, the vernal equinox takes place, and all nature feels her renovating sway, and seems to rejoice at the retreat of winter.

The general or great flow of *sap* in most trees takes place in this month; this is preparatory to the expanding of the leaves, and ceases when they are out. The *ash* now puts forth its grey buds; and the *hazel* and the *willow* exhibit some signs of returning life in their silky enfolded catkins. The columbine *(aquilegia vulgaris)* now shows its tufted heads along the borders; and the first of the daffodils *(pseudo narcissus)* are trusting their 'flowering gold to treacherous skies.' The leaflets of the black currant, and of the quince *(pyrus cydonia)*, are rapidly expanding. If the weather be mild, the blossoms of the almond, the apricot, and other wall-fruit of the amygdalus tribe, are unfolding: 'how the heart trembles, while the pen relates,' for *fear*, in spite of hope, paints them scattered beneath the wall, by the blasts of Eurus and Auster,

> and the dreadful force
> Of Boreas, that congeals the Cronian waves.

> Twine [illegible] those *red roses* for me,—
> Dar[illegible] sadder my wreath must be;
> Mi[illegible] of flowers unkissed by the sun,
> Fl[illegible]ers which died as the spring begun.
> The *blighted leaf* and the *cankered stem*
> Are what should form my diadem.
>
> Take that rose—it is nipt by the blast;
> That lily—the blight has over it past;

That *peach-bud*—a worm has gnawed it away;
Those *violets*—they were culled yesterday:
Bind them with leaves from the dark yew tree,
Then come and offer the wreath to me.

Let every flower be a flower of Spring,
But on each be a sign of withering;
Suited to me is the drooping wreath,
With colourless hues and scentless breath;
Seek ye not buds of brighter bloom;
Why should their beauty waste on the tomb?

I am too young for death, you say:
Fall not and fade not the green leaves in May
Does not the rose in its light depart?
Needs there long life to break the heart?
I have felt the breath of the deadly power,—
My summons is come, and I know mine hour! L. E. L.

Those trees, which as yet are too young to bear fruit, are also advancing in leaf. 'The violet darkly blue' is now generally in flower, peeping among its heart-shaped leaves, and, often in this month, justifying the comparison of the poet, of

Young Mirzala's blue eyes,
Whose sleepy lid like *snow on violets* lies[1].

About the middle of the month, the red currant (*ribes rubrum*) is rapidly assuming 'its mantle o'green.' The buds of the red lilac (*syringa vulgaris*) now lead 'the dance of life,' and are the first

[1] *The* SCENTLESS VIOLET.

Deceitful plant! from thee no odours rise,
Perfume the air, or scent the mossy glade,
Altho' thy blossoms wear the modest guise
Of her, the sweetest offspring of the shade.

Yet not like her's, still shunning to be seen,
And by their fragrant breath, alone, betrayed,
Veiled in the vesture of a seantier green,
To every gazer are thy flowers displayed.

Thus Virtue's garb Hypocrisy may wear,
Kneel as she kneels, or give as she has given;
But, ah! no meek retiring worth is there,
No incense of the heart exhales to heaven!

CHAUNCY HARE TOWNSEND.

to exhibit within their bosoms the tender embryo of their summer hopes. The leaves of the thornless rose, and of the hawthorn (*cratægus oxyacantha*), are gradually becoming determinate. The rich, yet soft-tinted auriculas, 'enriched with shining meal o'er all their velvet leaves,' are gradually displaying their flowers.

Our beloved *daisy*, the favourite of Chaucer and of Wordsworth, is now seen scattered over dry pastures. Of the strong attachment to this 'lowly flower,' particularly when reared in a foreign clime, we have a pleasing instance in the Rev. Dr. Carey, the learned Baptist Missionary at Mysore. In a letter from him to a botanical friend in Yorkshire, he gives this interesting account of an attempt to rear the pretty Marguerite. 'With great labour (he says) I have preserved the common *Field Daisy*, which came up accidentally in some English earth, for these six or seven years; but my whole stock is now only one plant. I have never been able, even with sheltering them, to preserve an old root through the rains, but I get a few seedlings every year. The proportion of *small* plants in this country is very inconsiderable, the greater number of our vegetable productions being either large shrubs, immense climbers, or timber trees. By the kindness of yourself and other gentlemen, who have lately sent me roots or seeds, our number of small shrubs is much increased, and our stock of bulbous plants become very respectable. Still, however, tulips, hyacinths, snowdrops, most of the lilies, &c., are strangers to us. I have a great desire to possess honeysuckles, especially the common woodbine. I mix the seeds which I send you with twice or thrice their bulk of earth, and put the whole in a box (a cask would be better), and nail or hoop them up close. I have no doubt but a quantity of most of your wild seeds, and many others, would succeed here, if well packed in earth as I have done with this box. A cask of your

peat-earth, thus full of seeds, would be an invaluable treasure, as the earth itself would be of great service in the culture of many plants. We have no peat in India. All our soils are either strong clays, deep loam, or loose but fertile sands. I need not say, that the seeds should be packed as soon as possible after they are ripe. Old seeds have scarcely ever succeeded in this country.' This extract suggested to Mr. Montgomery the subject of the following beautiful lines:—

Addressed to Dr. CAREY.

Thrice welcome, little English Flower!
My mother-country's white and red,
In rose or lily, till this hour,
Never to me such beauty spread:
Transplanted from thine island-bed,
A treasure in a grain of earth,
Strange as a spirit from the dead,
Thine embryo sprang to birth.

Thrice welcome, little English Flower!
Whose tribes beneath our natal skies
Shut close their leaves while vapours lower;
But when the sun's gay beams arise,
With unabashed but modest eyes
Follow his motion to the west,
Nor cease to gaze till daylight dies,
Then fold themselves to rest.

Thrice welcome, little English Flower!
To this resplendent hemisphere,
Where Flora's giant-offspring tower
In gorgeous liveries all the year:
Thou, only Thou, art *little* here,
Like worth unfriended or unknown,
Yet to my British heart more dear
Than all the torrid zone.

Thrice welcome, little English Flower!
Of early scenes beloved by me,
While happy in my father's bower,
Thou shalt the blithe memorial be:
The fairy-sports of infancy,
Youth's golden age, and manhood's prime,
Home, country, kindred, friends,—with thee
Are mine in this fair clime.

Thrice welcome, little English Flower!
I'll rear thee with a trembling hand:
O for the April sun and shower,
The sweet May-dews of that fair land,
Where DAISIES, thick as starlight, stand
In every walk!—that here might shoot
Thy scions, and thy buds expand,
A hundred from one root!

Thrice welcome, little English Flower!
To me the pledge of Hope unseen:
When sorrow would my soul o'erpower
For joys that *were*, or *might have been*,
I'll call to mind, how, fresh and green,
I saw thee waking from the dust,
Then turn to heaven with brow serene,
And place in GOD my trust.

J. MONTGOMERY.

In March, trouts begin to rise, and blood worms appear in the water. The clay hair-worm *(gordius argillaceus)* is found at the bottom of drains and ditches (see our last volume, p. 85), and the water-flea *(gyrinus natator)* may be seen gliding about upon the surface of sheltered pools. It is seldom, however, that the water-flea awakens from winter's rest in the mud, at the bottom, until April. This is a very interesting little creature, and every school-boy that has angled for a minnow, is acquainted with this merry swimmer in his shining black coat: they associate in small parties, of ten or a dozen, near the banks of pools, or on the quiet waters of brooks and rivers, where they circle around each other without any apparent contention, or object, from morning until night, with great sprightliness and activity, and in their motions imprint faint circles upon the surface on which they glide. They are seldom seen alone, and generally in action: one pool may afford space for the amusement of several of these companies, yet they do not commonly unite, but perform their cheerful circlings in separate family associations; if we interfere with their merriment, they instantly disperse, or dive to the bottom, but shortly all fear is over, and our little party are seen circling again. This little gliding flea becomes

familiar to us in our boyhood, and often recals, in after years, some of our earliest and most pleasant associations.

The equinoctial gales are usually most felt, both by sea and land, about this time.

> How fiercely drives the rattling hail!
> How loudly blows the blustering wind!
> Now deep and distant sounds the gale,
> And with its murmurs soothes the mind:
> Anon, a whistling sound prevails—
> By fits, irregular, it roars—
> With boisterous force the house assails,
> While with harsh, dreary noise, resound the jarring doors.
>
> REV. J. BLACK.

The gossamer appearance, so common in autumn, has been noticed also in this month. Our Huntingdonshire correspondent informs us, that, on the 24th of March, 1823, he observed the lands in a newly-ploughed close covered with cobwebs, or *gossamer*, and there were others floating in the air, the same as in autumn. It was a white frost, and foggy that morning. When he saw it, it was afternoon, and the sun was out. His farming man said he had seen the same a few mornings before; and, on the 15th of April, there was a similar appearance on some grass lands in a neighbouring parish.

The leaves of honeysuckles are now expanded, and the tansy (*tanacetum vulgare*) emerges out of the ground. Ivy-berries are ripe; the cotton grass (*eriophorum vaginatum*), wood spurge (*euphorbia amygdaloides*), butcher's broom (*ruscus aculeatus*), the rush (*juncus pilosus*), the spurge laurel (*daphne laureola*), and the coltsfoot (*tussilago*), found in woods, are now in bloom.—For a remarkable fact respecting the coltsfoot, see our last volume, p. 86.

The common whitlow grass (*draba verna*) on old walls; the yellow Alpine whitlow grass (*draba aizoides*) on maritime rocks; and the mountain pepperwort (*lepidum petræum*) among limestone rocks, flower in March.

The barren strawberry (*fragaria sterilis*), and the yew tree (*taxus baccata*), are now in flower, and the elder tree (*sambucus nigra*) begins to put forth its flower buds. The hounds-tongue (*cynoglossum*) is now seen with its modest flowers of pink or light blue. It is a common and vulgar error to suppose that the roots of the *cynoglossum* will drive away mice and rats.

The smelt (*salmo eperlanus*) begins to ascend rivers to spawn, when they are taken in great abundance. The *gar-fish*, gar-pike, or horn-fish (*esox belone*), appears in this month. It is much esteemed in Devonshire and Dorsetshire, though not upon the Essex coast and in London. The gannets or Soland geese (*pelicanus bassanus*) resort in March to the Hebrides, and other rocky isles of North Britain, to make their nests and lay their eggs.

At the end of March the brimstone-coloured butterfly (*papilio rhamni*) appears. *Bees* may be now seen in the garden culling their various sweets. Black beetles may now be observed flying about in the evening; and bats issue from their places of concealment. Roach and dace float near the surface of the water, and sport about in pursuit of insects. Peas appear above ground; the sea-kale (*crambe maritima*), a vegetable somewhat similar to, but more delicate than, asparagus, now begins to sprout. The male blossoms of the yew-tree expand and discharge their farina. Sparrows are busily employed in forming their nests. Young lambs are yeaned this month; and young *otters* are produced.

This is the month for inserting most of the main crops on which depend our winter's supply; many too for successional production during the summer; as well as several inhabitants of the herbary, where required. It is hazardous any longer to continue planting and pruning trees; their sap, 'detruded to the roots by wintry winds,' has recommenced its cir-

culation. No planter should be unmindful of the homely adage, 'plant in autumn, and *command* them to grow; plant in spring, and *implore* them to grow:' the work of preparation in the flower garden should also this month be completed.

APRIL.

APRIL is derived from *Aprilis*, of *aperio*, I open; because the earth, in this month, begins to open her bosom for the production of vegetables.

Remarkable Days

In APRIL 1824.

1.—ALL *or* AULD FOOLS' DAY.

ON this day every body strives to make as many fools as he can: the wit chiefly consists in sending persons on what are called sleeveless errands, for the *history of Eve's mother*, for *pigeon's milk*, *stirrup oil*, and similar ridiculous absurdities.—See T.T. for 1822, p. 90.

3.—RICHARD, *Bishop*.

Richard, surnamed *de Wiche*, from a place in Worcestershire where he was born, was educated at the Universities of Oxford and Paris. He was as remarkable for his learning and diligence in preaching, as he was for integrity.

4.—SAINT AMBROSE.

Our saint was born about the year 340, and was educated in his father's palace, who was Prætorian Præfect of Gaul. He converted the celebrated St. Augustine to the faith, and, at his baptism, composed that divine hymn, so well known in the church by the name of *Te Deum*. He died, aged fifty-seven.

4.—FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

Dominica in Passione, or Passion Sunday, was the name given to this day in missals; as the church now began to advert to the sufferings of Christ. In the north, it is called *Carling* Sunday, and grey peas, first steeped a night in water, and fried with butter, form the usual repast.

11.—PALM SUNDAY.

In the missals, this day is denominated *Dominica in ramis Palmarum*, or Palm Sunday, and was so called from the palm branches and green boughs formerly distributed on that day, in commemoration of our Lord's riding to Jerusalem. The ceremonies observed at Rome on this day are fully described in T.T. for 1822, pp. 69-71; see also T.T. for 1821, p. 96, for a custom in Lincolnshire; and T.T. for 1822, p. 68, for the usual observance of this day in Yorkshire. A description of the ceremonies observed by the Latin Church at *Jerusalem* on this day, may be seen in our last volume, p. 62.

An account of Palm Sunday in *Spain*, we extract from Doblado's interesting 'Letters:'—

Early on Palm Sunday (he observes), the melancholy sound of the Passion-bell of the Cathedral of Seville announces the beginning of the solemnities for which the fast of Lent is intended to prepare the mind. This bell is one of the largest which are made to revolve upon pivots. It is moved by means of two long ropes, which, by swinging the bell into a circular motion, are twined, gently at first, round the massive arms of a cross, of which the bell forms the foot, and the head its counterpoise. Six men then draw back the ropes till the enormous machine conceives a sufficient impetus to coil them in an opposite direction; and thus alternately, as long as ringing is required. To give this bell a tone appropriate to the *sombre* character of the season, it has been cast with several large holes disposed in a circle round the top—a contrivance which, without

diminishing the vibration of the metal, prevents the distinct formation of any musical note, and converts the sound into a dismal clangour.

The chapter, consisting of about eighty resident members, in their choral robes of black silk, with long trains and hoods, preceded by the inferior ministers, by thirty clergymen, in surplices, whose deep bass voices perform the plain or Ambrosian chaunt, and by the band of wind instruments and singers, who execute the more artificial strains of modern or counterpoint music, move in a long procession round the farthest aisles, each holding a branch of the oriental or date palm, which, overtopping the heads of the assembled multitude, nod gracefully, and bend into elegant curves at every step of the bearers. For this purpose, a number of palm trees are kept with their branches tied up together, that by the want of light the more tender shoots may preserve a delicate yellow tinge. The ceremony of blessing these branches is solemnly performed by the officiating priest previously to the procession, after which they are sent by the clergy to their friends, who tie them to the iron bars of the balconies, to be, as they believe, a protection against lightning.

At the long church service for this day, the organ is silent, the voices being supported by hautboys and basseons. All the altars are covered with purple or grey curtains. The holy vestments, during this week, are of the first-mentioned colour, except on Friday, when it is changed for black. The four accounts of our Saviour's passion appointed as gospels for this day, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, are dramatised in the following manner. Outside of the gilt iron railing which incloses the presbytery, are two large pulpits of the same materials, from one of which, at the daily high mass, the subdeacon chaunts the epistle, as the deacon does the gospel from the other. A moveable platform with a desk is placed between the pulpits on the *Passion-*

days; and three priests or deacons, in *albes*—the white vestment, over which the dalmatic is worn by the latter, and the *casulla* by the former—appear on these elevated posts, at the time when the gospel should be said. These officiating ministers are chosen among the singers in holy orders, one a bass, another a tenor, and the third a counter-tenor. The tenor chaunts the narrative without changing from the key note, and makes a pause whenever he comes to the words of the interlocutors mentioned by the Evangelist. In those passages the words of our Saviour are sung by the bass, in a solemn strain. The counter-tenor, in a more florid style, personates the inferior characters, such as Peter, the Maid, and Pontius Pilate. The cries of the priests and the multitude are represented by the band of musicians within the choir.

*14.—WEDNESDAY IN PASSION WEEK.

Don Leucadio Doblado gives the following account of the celebration of this day at Seville.—'The mass begins within a white veil which conceals the officiating priest and ministers, and the service proceeds in this manner till the words "the veil of the temple was rent in twain" are chaunted. At this moment the veil disappears, as if by enchantment, and the ears of the congregation are stunned with the noise of concealed fire works, which are meant to imitate an earthquake.

'The evening service named *Tinieblas* (darkness), is performed this day after sunset. The cathedral, on this occasion, exhibits the most solemn and impressive aspect. The high altar, concealed behind dark grey curtains which fall from the height of the cornices, is dimly lighted by six yellow wax candles, while the gloom of the whole temple is broken in large masses by wax torches, fixed one on each pillar of the centre aisle, about one-third of its length from the ground. An elegant candlestick of brass, from fifteen to twenty feet high, is placed, this and

the following evening, between the choir and the altar, holding thirteen candles, twelve of yellow, and one of bleached wax, distributed on the two sides of the triangle which terminates the machine. Each candle stands by a brass figure of one of the apostles. The white candle occupying the apex is allotted to the Virgin Mary. At the conclusion of each of the twelve psalms appointed for the service, one of the yellow candles is extinguished, till, the white taper burning alone, it is taken down and concealed behind the altar. Immediately after the ceremony, the *Miserere*, as the fiftieth Psalm is called, set every other year to a new strain of music, is sung in a grand style. This performance lasts neither more nor less than one hour. At the conclusion of the last verse the clergy break up abruptly without the usual blessing, making a thundering noise by clapping their moveable seats against the frame of the stalls, or knocking their ponderous *breviaries* against the boards, as the Rubric directs.'

15.—MAUNDY THURSDAY.

This day is called, in Latin, *dies Mandati*, the day of the command, being the day on which our Lord washed the feet of his disciples, as recorded in the second lesson. This practice was long kept up in the monasteries. After the ceremony, liberal donations were made to the poor, of clothing and of silver money; and refreshment was given them to mitigate the severity of the fast. A relic of this custom is still preserved in the donations dispensed at St. James's on this day.—See T.T. for 1821, pp. 96-98. The modern ceremonies at Rome are described in T.T. for 1822, pp. 91-94.

The very interesting account of the Catholic ceremonies and ordinances at *Seville* is thus continued by Doblado, in his description of those which usually take place on this day.—'The ceremonies of the high mass (the only one which is publicly performed on this and the next day) being especially intended as a

remembrance of the last supper, are, very appropriately, of a mixed character—a splendid commemoration which leads the mind from gratitude to sorrow. The service, as it proceeds, rapidly assumes the deepest hues of melancholy. The bells, which were joining in one joyous peal from every steeple, cease at once, producing a peculiar heavy stillness, which none can conceive but those who have lived in a populous Spanish town long enough to lose the conscious sense of that perpetual tinkling which agitates the ear during the day and great part of the night.

'A host, consecrated at the mass, is carried with great solemnity to a temporary structure, called the *Monument*, erected in every church with more or less splendour, according to the wealth of the establishment. There it is deposited in a silver urn, generally shaped like a sepulchre, the key of which, hanging from a gold chain, is committed by the priest to the care of one of the most respectable inhabitants of the parish, who wears it round his neck as a badge of honour till the next morning. The key of the Cathedral Monument is entrusted to the archbishop, if present, or to the dean in his absence.

'The striking effect of the last-mentioned structure is not easily conceived. It fills up the space between four arches of the nave, rising in five bodies to the roof of the temple. The columns of the two lower tiers, which, like the rest of the monument, imitate white marble filletted with gold, are hollow, allowing the numerous attendants, who take care of the lights that cover it from the ground to the very top, to do their duty during four and twenty hours, without any disturbance or unseemly bustle. More than three thousand pounds of wax, besides one hundred and sixty silver lamps, are employed in the illumination.

'The gold casket set with jewels, which contains the host, lies deposited in an elegant temple of massive silver, weighing five hundred and ten marks,

which is seen through a blaze of light on the pediment of the monument. Two members of the chapter in their choral robes, and six inferior priests in surplices, attend on their knees before the shrine, till they are relieved by an equal number of the same classes at the end of every hour. This act of adoration is performed, without interruption, from the moment of depositing the host in the casket till that of taking it out the next morning. The cathedral, as well as many others of the wealthiest churches, are kept open and illuminated the whole night.

'One of the public sights of the town, on this day, is the splendid cold dinner which the archbishop gives to twelve paupers, in commemoration of the Apostles. The dinner is to be seen laid out on tables filling up two large rooms in the palace. The twelve guests are completely clothed at the expense of their host; and having partaken of a more homely dinner in the kitchen, they are furnished with large baskets to take away the splendid commons allotted to each in separate dishes, which they sell to the *gourmands* of the town. Each, besides, is allowed to dispose of his napkin, curiously made up into the figure of some bird or quadruped, which people buy both as ornaments to their china cupboards, and as specimens of the perfection to which some of the poorer nuns carry the art of plaiting.

'At two in the afternoon, the archbishop, attended by his chapter, repairs to the Cathedral, where he performs the ceremony, which, from the notion of its being literally enjoined by our Saviour, is called the *Mandatum*. The twelve paupers are seated on a platform erected before the high altar, and the prelate, stripped of his silk robes, and kneeling successively before each, washes their feet in a large silver bason.

'About this time the processions, known by the name of *Cofradías* (Confraternities), begin to move out of the different churches to which they are at-

tached. The head of the police appoints the hour when each of these pageants is to appear in the square of the Town Hall, and the *Audiencia* or Court of Justice. From thence their route to the Cathedral, and out of it, to a certain point, is the same for all. These streets are lined by two rows of spectators of the lower classes, the windows being occupied by those of a higher rank. An order is previously published by the town-crier, directing the inhabitants to decorate their windows, which they do by hanging out the showy silk and chintz counterpanes of their beds. As to the processions themselves, except one which has the privilege of parading the town in the dead of night, they have little to attract the eye or affect the imagination. Their chief object is to convey groups of figures, as large as life, representing different scenes of our Saviour's passion.

'There is something remarkable in the established and characteristic marks of some figures. The Jews are distinguished by long aquiline noses. Saint Peter is completely bald. The dress of the Apostle John is green, and that of Judas Iscariot yellow; and so intimately associated is this circumstance with the idea of the traitor, that it has brought that colour into universal discredit. It is probably from this circumstance (though yellow may have been allotted to Judas from some more antient prejudice) that the Inquisition has adopted it for the *Sanbenito*, or coat of infamy, which persons convicted of heresy are compelled to wear. The red hair of Judas, like Peter's baldness, seems to be agreed upon by all the painters and sculptors of Europe. *Judas's hair* is a usual name in Spain; and a similar appellation, it should seem, was used in England in Shakspeare's time. "His hair," says Rosalind, in As you Like it, "is of the dissembling colour:" to which Celia answers—"Something browner than Judas's."

'The midnight procession derives considerable effect from the stilness of the hour, and the dress of

the attendants on the sacred image. None are admitted to this religious act but the members of that *fraternity;* generally young men of fashion. They all appear in a black tunic, with a broad belt so contrived as to give the idea of a long rope tied tight round the body; a method of penance commonly practised in former times. The face is covered with a long black veil, falling from a sugar-loaf cap three feet high. Thus arrayed, the nominal *penitents* advance, with silent and measured steps, in two lines, dragging a train six feet long, and holding aloft a wax candle of twelve pounds, which they rest upon the hip-bone, holding it obliquely towards the vacant space between them. The veils, being of the same stuff with the cap and tunic, would absolutely impede the sight but for two small holes through which the eyes are seen to gleam, adding no small effect to the dismal appearance of such strange figures. The pleasure of appearing in a disguise, in a country where masquerades are not tolerated by the Government, is a great inducement to the young men for subscribing to this religious association. The disguise, it is true, does not in the least relax the rules of strict decorum which the ceremony requires; yet the mock penitents think themselves repaid for the fatigue and trouble of the night by the fresh impression which they expect to make on the already won hearts of their mistresses, who, by preconcerted signals, are enabled to distinguish their lovers, in spite of the veils and the uniformity of the dresses.

'It is scarcely forty years since the disgusting exhibition of people streaming in their own blood was discontinued by an order of the Government. These *penitents* were generally from among the most debauched and abandoned of the lower classes. They appeared in white linen petticoats, pointed white caps and veils, and a jacket of the same colour, which exposed the naked shoulders to view. Having, previously to their joining the procession, been sca-

rified on the back, they beat themselves with a cat-o'-nine-tails, making the blood run down to the skirts of their garment. It may be easily conceived that religion had no share in these voluntary inflictions. There was a notion afloat that this act of penance had an excellent effect on the constitution; while the vanity of the penitents was not a little concerned in the applause which the most bloody flagellation obtained from the vulgar.'—(*Doblado's Letters*, p. 285.)

16.—GOOD FRIDAY.

This day commemorates the sufferings of Christ, as a propitiation for our sins. Holy Friday, or the Friday in Holy Week, was its more antient and general appellation; the name *Good Friday* is peculiar to the English church. It was observed as a day of extraordinary devotion. Buns, with crosses upon them, are usually eaten in London and some other places on this day, at breakfast. A very curious account of the modern ceremonies at Rome, with a particular description of the *Illuminated Cross of St. Peter's*, may be seen in T.T. for 1822, pp. 94-99. A description of the *penance* still performed at *Rome* on this day, and of the celebration of Good Friday at *Jerusalem* in 1820, will be found in our last volume, pp. 66-68.

Saunderson, in his 'Antiquities of Durham,' has the following notice of an antient custom observed in the Cathedral on this day.

'On the morning of Good Friday, on the north side of the quire, nigh unto the high altar was set up a *Sepulchre*, covered with red velvet, embroidered with gold. It contained an image of Christ, with the cross in his hand, to represent the Resurrection, the Host being inclosed in crystal upon the breast of the figure. Upon Easter-Day it was taken out of the sepulchre, paraded in state and procession, &c.'

The ceremonies of the Holy Week in Spain, increasing in interest from day to day, are completed on Good Friday; and the showy attractions of the

different performances in the Cathedral, give place to the more solemn ceremony of the *tres horas*, and the grotesque *Passion Sermons* of the suburbs and neighbourhood. The accurate and very pleasing author, whom we have so often quoted, affords us the following interesting account of these various observances. 'The crowds of people who spent the evening and part of the night of Thursday in visiting the numerous churches where the host is entombed, are still seen, though greatly thinned, performing this religious ceremony till the beginning of service at nine. This is, perhaps, the most impressive of any used by the Church of Rome. The altars, which, at the end of mass on Thursday, were publicly and solemnly stripped of their cloths and rich table-hangings by the hands of the priest, appear in the same state of distressed negligence. No musical sound is heard, except the deep-toned voices of the psalm or plain chaunt singers. After a few preparatory prayers, and the dramatized history of the Passion, already described, the officiating priest (the archbishop at the cathedral), in a plain albe or white tunic, takes up a wooden cross six or seven feet high, which, like all other crosses, has for the last two weeks of Lent been covered with a purple veil, and standing towards the people, before the middle of the altar, gradually uncovers the sacred emblem, which both the clergy and laity worship upon their knees. The prelate is then unshod by the assistant ministers, and taking the cross upon his right shoulder, as our Saviour is represented by painters on his way to Calvary, he walks alone from the altar to the entrance of the presbytery or chancel, and lays his burthen upon two cushions. After this, he moves back some steps, and approaching the cross with three prostrations, kisses it, and drops an oblation of a piece of silver into a silver dish. The whole chapter, having gone through the same ceremony, form themselves in two lines, and repair to the monument, from whence the

officiating priest conveys the deposited host to the altar, where he communicates upon it without consecrating any wine. Here the service terminates abruptly; all candles and lamps are extinguished; and the tabernacle, which throughout the year contains the sacred wafers, being left open, every object bespeaks the desolate and widowed state of the church from the death of the Saviour to his resurrection.

'The ceremonies of Good Friday being short and performed at an early hour, both the gay and the devout would be at a loss how to spend the remainder of the day, but for the grotesque *Passion Sermons* of the suburbs and neighbouring villages, and the more solemn performance known by the name of *Tres Horas*—three hours.

'The practice of continuing in meditation from twelve to three o'clock of this day—the time which our Saviour is supposed to have hung on the cross—was introduced by the Spanish Jesuits, and partakes of the impressive character which the members of that order had the art to impart to the religious practices by which they cherished the devotional spirit of the people. The church where the *three hours* are kept is generally hung in black, and made impervious to daylight. A large crucifix is seen on the high altar, under a black canopy, with six unbleached wax candles, which cast a *sombre* glimmering on the rest of the church. The females of all ranks occupy, as usual, the centre of the nave, sitting or kneeling on the matted ground, and adding to the dismal appearance of the scene by the colour of their veils and dresses.

'Just as the clock strikes twelve, a priest in his cloak and cassock ascends the pulpit, and delivers a preparatory address of his own composition. He then reads the printed Meditations on the *Seven Words*, or Sentences spoken by Jesus on the cross, allotting to each such a portion of time, as that, with

the interludes of music which follow each of the readings, the whole may not exceed three hours. The music is generally good and appropriate, and, if a sufficient band can be collected, well repays to an amateur the inconvenience of a crowded church, where, from the want of seats, the male part of the congregation are obliged either to stand or kneel. It is, in fact, one of the best works of Haydn, composed, a short time ago, for some gentlemen of Cadiz, who showed both their taste and liberality in thus procuring this master-piece of harmony for the use of their country. It has been lately published in Germany, under the title of the "Sette Parole."

'Every part of the performance is so managed that the clock strikes three about the end of the meditation on the words *It is finished*.—The picture of the expiring Saviour, powerfully drawn by the original writer of the *Tres Horas*, can hardly fail to strike the imagination when listened to under the influence of such music and scenery; and when, at the first stroke of the clock, the priest rises from his seat, and, in a loud and impassioned voice, announces the consummation of the awful and mysterious sacrifice, on whose painful and bloody progress the mind has been dwelling so long, few hearts can repel the impression, and still fewer eyes can conceal it. Tears bathe every cheek, and sobs heave every female bosom. After a parting address from the pulpit, the ceremony concludes with a piece of music, where the powers of the great composer are magnificently displayed in the imitation of the disorder and agitation of nature which the Evangelists relate.

'The *Passion Sermons* for the populace might be taken for a parody of the *Three Hours*. They are generally delivered in the open air, by friars of the Mendicant Orders, in those parts of the city and suburbs which are chiefly, if not exclusively, inhabited by the lower classes.

'A moveable pulpit is placed before the church

door, from which a friar, possessed of a stentorian voice, delivers an *improved* history of the Passion, such as was revealed to Saint Bridget, a Franciscan nun, who, from the dictation of the Virgin Mary, has left us a most minute and circumstantial account of the life and death of Christ and his mother. This yearly narrative, however, would have lost most of its interest but for the scenic illustrations which keep up the expectation and rivet the attention of the audience. It was formerly the custom to introduce a living Saint Peter—a character which belonged by a natural and inalienable right to the baldest head in the village—who acted the Apostle's denial, swearing *by Christ* he did not know the man. This edifying part of the performance is omitted at Castilleja; though a practised performer crows with such a shrill and natural note as must be answered with a challenge by every cock of spirit in the neighbourhood. The flourish of a trumpet announces, in the sequel, the publication of the sentence passed by the Roman governor; and the town-crier delivers it with legal precision in the manner it is practised in Spain before an execution. Hardly has the last word been uttered, when the preacher, in a frantic passion, gives the crier the *lie direct*, cursing the tongue that has uttered such blasphemies. He then invites an angel to contradict both Pilate and the Jews, when, obedient to the orator's desire, a boy gaudily dressed, and furnished with a pair of gilt pasteboard wings, appears at a window, and proclaims the *true verdict of Heaven*. Sometimes, in the course of the preacher's narrative, an image of the Virgin Mary is made to meet that of Christ, on his way to Calvary, both taking an affectionate leave in the street. The appearance, however, of the Virgin bearing a handkerchief to collect a sum for her son's burial is never omitted, both because it melts the whole female audience into tears, and because it produces a good collection for the convent. The

whole is closed by the *Descendimiento*, or unnailing a crucifix as large as life from the cross, an operation performed by two friars, who, in the character of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, are seen with ladders and carpenters' tools letting down the jointed figure to be placed on a bier, and carried into the church in the form of a funeral.'

17.—EASTER EVE.

The resurrection is celebrated this morning by the Spanish Catholics, with an anticipation of nearly four and twenty hours, yet fasting is continued till midnight, the beginning of Sunday: the practice is said to be of high antiquity, although no reason is assigned for it. The celebration of this day at *Seville* is thus described by that accurate observer Don Leucadio Doblado.—'The service in the Cathedral of Seville begins this morning without either the sound of bells or of musical instruments. The *Paschal Candle* is seen by the north side of the altar. It is, in fact, a pillar of wax, nine yards in height, and thick in proportion, standing on a regular marble pedestal. It weighs eighty *arrobas*, or two thousand pounds, of twelve ounces. This candle is cast and painted new every year, the old one being broken into pieces on the Saturday preceding Whitsunday, the day when part of it is used for the consecration of the baptismal font. The sacred torch is lighted with the *new fire*, which this morning the priest strikes out of a flint, and it burns during service till Ascension day. A chorister in his surplice climbs up a gilt-iron rod, furnished with steps like a flag-staff, and having the top railed in, so as to admit of a seat on a level with the end of the candle. From this *crow's nest*, the young man lights up and trims the wax pillar, drawing off the melted wax with a large iron ladle.

'High mass begins this day behind the great veil, which for the two last weeks in Lent covers the altar. After some preparatory prayers, the priest strikes up the hymn *Gloria in excelsis Deo*. At this moment

the veil flies off, the explosion of fireworks in the upper galleries reverberates in a thousand echoes from the vaults of the church, and the four and twenty large bells of its tower awake, with their discordant though gladdening sounds, those of the one hundred and forty-six steeples which this religious town boasts of. A brisk firing of musketry, accompanied by the howling of the innumerable dogs, which, unclaimed by any master, live and multiply in the streets, adds strength and variety to this universal din. The firing is directed against several stuffed figures, not unlike Guy Fawkes of the fifth of November, which are seen hanging by the neck on a rope, extended across the least frequented streets. It is then that the pious rage of the people of Seville is vented against the arch-traitor Judas, whom they annually hang, shoot, draw and quarter in effigy.

'The church service ends in a procession about the aisles. The priest bears the host in his hands, visible through glass as a picture within a medallion. The sudden change from the gloomy appearance of the church and its ministers, to the simple and joyous character of this procession, the very name of *Pasqua Florida*, the flowery Passover, and, more than the name, the flowers themselves, which well-dressed children, mixed with the censer-bearers, scatter on the ground, crowd the mind and heart with the ideas, hopes, and feelings of renovated life, and give to this ceremony, even for those who disbelieve the personal presence of a Deity triumphant over death, a character of inexpressible tenderness.'—(*Letters on Spain*, p. 299.)

For an account of some singular practices at Rome on Easter Eve, see T.T. for 1822, pp. 100-103: the ceremonies of the Greek church at Jerusalem on this eve are described in our last volume, p. 69.

18.—EASTER DAY.

Easter is styled by the fathers the highest of all festivals, the feast of feasts, the queen of festivals,

and *Dominica Gaudii*, the joyous Sunday. Masters granted freedom to their slaves at this season, and valuable presents were made to the poor. A very singular custom formerly prevailed at Lostwithiel in Cornwall on this day: see T. T. for 1822, p. 103. Of the splendid ceremonies at Rome on Easter Sunday, a particular account is given in the same volume, pp. 104-107. The ceremonies of the Greek church at *Jerusalem* are noticed in T. T. for 1823, pp. 71-74; as is also the Russian celebration of Easter in p. 70 of the same volume.

Antiently, the first dish that was brought up to table on Easter-day was a *red herring riding away on horseback*; i. e. a herring ordered by the cook, something after the likeness of a man on horseback, set in acorn salad.—*(Aubrey's MS.)*

'The custom of eating a gammon of bacon at Easter (which is still kept up in many parts of England) was founded on this, viz. to show their abhorrence of Judaism at that solemn commemoration of our Lord's resurrection.'

19, 20.—EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

Every day in this week was formerly observed as a religious festival, sermons being preached, and the sacrament administered. In many places, servants were permitted to rest from their usual employments, that they might constantly attend public worship. During fifteen days, of which the paschal solemnity consisted, the courts of justice were shut, and all public games, shows, and amusements, were prohibited. It is unnecessary to observe that these practices have long ceased, and that the Easter week is usually devoted to relaxation and amusement.—An account of some curious customs on these days in different parts of England will be found in T. T. for 1822, p. 107: see also our last volume, p. 75.

*23. 1823.—JOSEPH NOLLEKENS DIED,

A celebrated sculptor: of his numerous works this is

not the place to speak; specimens of them are in the possession of most persons of taste in the United Kingdom, as well as on the continent. His own designs, and his academical drawings, are deserving of equal commendation; and he has also left a most interesting volume, containing copies, by himself, of many of the Townley marbles and terra-cottas; the publication of which was often solicited in his lifetime, but constantly refused. We trust that his executors will not suffer so great a treasure to be withheld from the public. He left behind him property amounting to £300,000, amassed by habits of strict parsimony, or rather penuriousness. He bequeathed £50,000 to Dr. Kenrick, Public Librarian at Cambridge; and a similar sum to Francis Douce, Esq. the able antiquary, and illustrator of Shakspeare. The latter gentleman is also left residuary legatee.

*23. 1823.—A. ARROWSMITH DIED, ÆT. 73,

The eminent geographer; celebrated as a constructor of maps and charts throughout Europe and America.

*24. 1823.—THOMAS SIMPSON DIED,

Forty-one years resident engineer of the Chelsea water-works. Mr. Simpson was the friend of Rennie and Watts, and contributed greatly towards that distinction which the civil engineers of this country enjoy. He was the projector of the Lambeth water-works: Glasgow and Liverpool also have both profited by his ingenuity, while London is in no small degree indebted to him for the pure water with which it is supplied. He was a native of Black-hall, in Cumberl[redacted]

25.—LOW SUNDAY.

It was a custom among the primitive Christians, on the first Sunday after Easter-day, to repeat some part of the solemnity of that grand festival; whence this Sunday took the name of *Low Sunday*, being celebrated as a feast, though in a lower degree.

*29. 1823.—FORTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.

'Lateat Scintillula Forsan.'

Long had mankind, by dangerous error led,
Entombed alike the breathless and the dead;
Soon as the vital current ceased to flow,
The eye to sparkle, and the cheek to glow,
Despairing Art retired, nor strove to save
The pallid victim from th' untimely grave.
Unconscious she that ere the spirit flies,
Life's energy awhile suspended lies;
And oft, amid the gloom of Nature's night,
Lurks the faint spark of unextinguished light.

Many are the ornaments and proud the trophies which this nation has reared; but the proudest among them are—not the domes of the affluent, or the palaces of the great—but the asylum for the poor—the hospital for the sick—the school for the unlearned. Neither is it the hereditary possession of title and rank, nor the rich man adorned with the trappings of splendour, who dignifies our nature and makes it approximate to the Divine; but it is a HOWARD visiting the prisons, it is a HAWES[1] rekindling the spark of life: for, in the list of those excellent institutions which do credit to this age and nation, the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY has ever held a most distinguished place. The peculiar benefits which it confers, and the strong claims which it advances to public patronage, induce us to devote a few pages to a notice of this life-saving institution, which has so often

Back to its mansion called the fleeting breath.

The objects of the Royal Humane Society are twofold. The *first* relates to persons who, by receiving immediate assistance when in imminent danger of drowning, are rescued by such assistance from sudden death. The *second* to individuals who, from

[1] The late Dr. William Hawes, the founder of the Humane Society.

whatever cause, are in a state of suspended animation.

Within a period of nearly *half a century*, the Royal Humane Society has paid rewards to above TWENTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED claimants for cases of the first description, and has thus contributed annually to the preservation of the lives of very many most valuable members of the community. Heroic and affecting instances are on record, in which individuals have exposed their own lives to the most imminent hazard, in order to save a fellow-creature from perishing. Animated by the rewards of the Society, men have fearlessly plunged into the water, and trusted to their strength and dexterity for success in bringing persons who were sinking to shore; or a rope has been carried round the body of a bold swimmer, frequently through the midst of a raging surge, and the deliverer and the delivered have returned together in triumph from the frightful waters.

With reference to the *second* kind of cases to which the Royal Humane Society directs its attention, namely, those in which the vital functions are suspended, let it be remembered that, previously to its formation, the unfortunate persons were left to perish, *under the false impression that they were actually dead*[1]. Since its establishment, upwards of FIVE THOUSAND individuals have been rescued by its direct agency, in the *neighbourhood of the metropolis alone*, from premature death[2]. Among the instances of restoration have been all kinds of cases of suspended animation, such as have been occasioned by submersion, lightning, noxious airs in coal and other mines, wells, &c., apoplexy, hanging, and *attempts at suicide*.

[1] This gross neglect still prevails in many parts of the world; and even in *France*, the means to restore animation are seldom used.

[2] In the year 1822, *one hundred and twenty-six* persons in the vicinity of London were restored to life, including twenty attempted suicides.

A mere allusion to cases of the preceding description cannot fail to present the Royal Humane Society with the strongest claims to the generous sympathies of mankind; while, at the same time, it addresses itself to their dearest interests. With regard to other benevolent institutions, we are ourselves absolved from the miseries we soothe, and the wants we alleviate; *but who shall claim for himself, or his friend, an exemption from the dangers against which the Humane Society provides?*

Let us bring the objects of the institution fairly home to our own families; its claims will then appear too imperative to be resisted. A child, perhaps an only child, in whose playful sports we had been participating half an hour before, heedlessly ventures upon a piece of ice which breaks from under him, or, while bathing, is carried beyond his depth, or while playing on the brink of a river falls into the rapid stream. The alarm is sounded—an heroic individual, animated by an impulse of humanity, or the rewards of the Humane Society, exposes his own life to succour and to save; but, alas! the short struggle of nature is past. Our child, who left us in all the flush of youthful promise, is now brought to the home which so lately resounded with his voice, a pale and breathless corpse. Is this a hopeless case? A few minutes only elapsed before he was drawn out of the water by the efforts of his deliverer. Aid is eagerly sought. The resuscitative processes of the Humane Society are instantly and assiduously applied by one of the medical assistants. By perseverance in those means the child is restored. WHO shall estimate the worth of an institution which provided for the two-fold objects of his timely rescue and eventual recovery? WHO but *the parent whose child was dead, and is alive again?* What parent shall venture to say that such a case may not be his own? The records of the Humane Society abound in similar instances, and thus pre-

sent the institution, not as an object of general benevolence merely, but as one in which we all have a strong, constant, and personal interest[1].

In presenting to our readers this brief outline of the objects of the Royal Humane Society, and of the means employed to obtain them, a limited survey only is taken of its benefits. Within the sphere of its immediate influence—its rewards have contributed universally to diffuse a knowledge of its existence, and, at the same time, to excite the emulous exertions of the most active and courageous classes of the community in the preservation of persons in danger of drowning. The *gratuitous distribution of many thousand copies* of its methods of treatment annually, added to the advantage of sermons preached before numerous congregations, have *put the public generally in possession of the most effectual means of restoring suspended animation.* But this is not all. In various other respects the Society has been beneficial to mankind; it has kept alive the subject of suspended vital action, and has thus been the means of giving to the world many able and scientific works upon that subject, which will be bequeathed as invaluable treasures to posterity; while, from the united talent of its MEDICAL COMMITTEE (comprising some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the metropolis) we may reasonably hope that further important discoveries may be made in the resuscitative art, and that the cases which, at present, fail to yield to the exertions of medical science, will, ere long, be transformed into trophies of

[1] And here we cannot omit to mention the very essential services rendered by the Society, for many years past, in the *skaiting season*, in *Hyde Park*; and particularly, of late, in St. JAMES'S PARK, previously to which, many lives were annually sacrificed to youthful temerity. Similar accidents are now, in a great measure, prevented by the prompt exertions of the men appointed by the Society, at a great expense, to attend daily in this Park; and who are provided with various mechanical contrivances to effect the rescue of those who may unhappily fall through the ice.—See the vignette in the Society's 'Report' for 1823, p. xiv.

success; and may almost enable us to exclaim with the bard of Avon,

> Death may usurp on Nature many hours,
> And yet the fire of life kindle again
> The overpressed spirits. I have heard
> Of an Egyptian had nine hours lien dead,
> By good appliance was recovered.
>
> SHAKSPEARE, *Pericles, Act III.*

By its impulse and example the Society has led to the formation of *numerous similar associations* for the preservation and restoration of life in various places of Great Britain, in her Colonies, in several European nations, and on the American Continent. Many of these institutions will become the future parents of others, and will thus contribute to multiply to an indefinite extent the practical benefits of the Royal Humane Society.

The preservation of the lives of shipwrecked mariners, a subject in which the interests of a maritime country, like England, are so eminently concerned, long since engaged the attention of the Humane Society, and medals and honorary distinctions have been awarded to inventors of any apparatus that could be proved to be capable of effecting so desirable an object. It affords us much pleasure to state, that in consequence of a bequest by the late DR. ANTHONY FOTHERGILL, the Society has been enabled to offer to the nautical and scientific public a *Prize Gold Medal* of the value of FIFTY GUINEAS, for the best essay or discovery, to be approved by them, *'on the Prevention of Shipwreck, and the Preservation of Shipwrecked Mariners.'* The time for receiving these essays expired on the 1st Sept. 1823, and, we understand, there are several candidates for the Prize. Let us sincerely hope that this proffered distinction will produce some ingenious essay or discovery that

> Shall snatch the pale victim from a wat'ry grave,

and allow us to repeat with the poet:—

Though clouds and darkness veil th' encumbered sky,
Fearless through darkness, and through clouds they fly;
Though blasts tempestuous scour the swelling main,
Tempestuous blasts pour out their rage in vain;
While at the helm HUMANITY presides,
Secure they pass, secure repass the tides.

We will conclude our notice of this excellent Institution by presenting our friends with a copy of the 'Manual,' or 'Methods of Treatment,' recommended by the Society to be pursued in cases of persons apparently drowned or dead. We make no apology for the space which it occupies in our pages: if it save *one life*—perhaps the reader's—we shall esteem this notice of the Humane Society the most valuable portion of our labours[1].

METHODS OF TREATMENT
Recommended by the Royal Humane Society.

CAUTIONS.

1. LOSE NO TIME.
2. AVOID ALL ROUGH USAGE.
3. NEVER HOLD THE BODY UP BY THE FEET.
4. NOR ROLL THE BODY ON CASKS.
5. NOR RUB THE BODY WITH SALT OR SPIRITS.
6. NOR INJECT TOBACCO SMOKE, OR INFUSION OF TOBACCO.

RESTORATIVE MEANS, IF APPARENTLY DROWNED.

Send quickly for Medical Assistance; but do not delay the following Means.

I. Convey the body *carefully*, with the head and shoulders supported in a raised position, to the nearest house.

II. Strip the body, and rub it dry; then wrap it in hot blankets, and place it in a warm bed in a warm chamber.

III. Wipe and cleanse the mouth and nostrils.

[1] Many lives, we have no doubt, are saved annually in consequence of the Society's Manual being attached (at their expense) to the principal *Pocket Books* published in London: and an instance lately occurred, where a lady residing at Hemel Hempstead, remembering that she had seen the Society's directions in her children's *Spelling Book* (by Mayor), was enabled to save the life of a fine little [redacted] who had fallen into a trout stream, and was rescued by his frantic mother, but who gave up all hopes of seeing her child restored.—See this interesting case, as communicated by S. W. Sweet, Esq.; in the Society's Report for 1823, p. xlvii.

IV. *In order to restore the natural warmth of the body:*

1. Move a heated *covered* warming-pan over the back and spine.
2. Put bladders or bottles of hot water or heated bricks to the pit of the stomach, the armpits, between the thighs, and to the soles of the feet.
3. Foment the body with hot flannels; but, if possible,
4. *Immerse* the body in a warm bath as hot as the hand can bear without pain; as this is preferable to the other means for restoring warmth.
5. Rub the body briskly with the hand; do not, however, suspend the use of the other means at the same time.

V. In order to *restore breathing*, introduce the pipe of a common bellows (where the apparatus of the Society is not at hand) into one nostril, carefully closing the other and the mouth; at the same time drawing downwards and pushing gently backwards the upper part of the windpipe, to allow a more free admission of air: blow the bellows gently, in order to *inflate the lungs*, till the breast be a little raised; the mouth and nostrils should then be set free, and a moderate pressure made with the hand upon the chest. Repeat this process till life appears.

VI. Electricity *to be employed early* by a Medical Assistant.

VII. Inject into the stomach, by means of an elastic tube and syringe, half a pint of warm brandy and water, or wine and water.

VIII. Apply sal-volatile or hartshorn to the nostrils.

If apparently Dead from intense Cold.

Rub the body with *snow, ice,* or *cold water.*—Restore warmth by slow degrees; and, after some time, if necessary, employ the means recommended for the Drowned. In these accidents, it is *highly dangerous* to apply *heat* too early.

If apparently Dead from Hanging.

In addition to the means recommended for the Drowned, *Bleeding* should early be employed by a Medical Assistant.

If apparently Dead from noxious Vapours, Lightning, &c.

1. Remove the body into a cool, fresh air.
2. Dash cold water on the neck, face, and breast, frequently.
3. If the body be *cold,* apply warmth, as recommended for the Drowned.
4. Use the means recommended for inflating the lungs in Direction V.
5. Let *Electricity* (particularly in accidents from *lightning*) be early employed by a Medical Assistant.

If apparently Dead from Intoxication.

Lay the body on a bed, with the head raised: remove the neck-cloth, and loosen the clothes. Obtain instantly *Medical Assistance,* as the treatment must be regulated by the state of the patient; but in the mean time, apply cloths soaked in cold water to the head, and bottles of hot water, or hot bricks, to the calves of the legs and to the feet.

If apparently Dead from Apoplexy.

The patient should be placed in a cool air, and the clothes loosened, particularly about the neck and breast. Bleeding must be early employed by a Medical Assistant; the quantity regulated by the state of the pulse. Cloths soaked in cold water, spirits, or vinegar and water, should be kept applied to the head, which should be instantly shaved. All stimulants should be avoided. *In cases of Coup de Soleil, or Strokes of the Sun, the same means to be used as in Apoplexy.*

General Observations.

On restoration to life, a tea-spoonful of warm water should be given; and then, if the power of swallowing be returned, small quantities of warm wine, or weak brandy and water, warm; the patient should be kept in bed, and a disposition to sleep encouraged, except in cases of apoplexy, intoxication, and *coup-de-soleil*. Great care is requisite to maintain the restored vital actions, *and at the same time to prevent undue excitement**.

The treatment recommended by the Society is to be persevered in for *three or four hours*. It is an erroneous opinion, that persons are irrecoverable because life does not soon make its appearance; and it is absurd to suppose that a body must not be meddled with or removed without the permission of a Coroner.

The above Manual has been translated into the French, Italian, Spanish, and German languages, and has been circulated on the continent, and in Spanish America: it has also been made known to the natives of Cambria and of Hindustan, in their vernacular tongue, and has been resorted to, with equal success, on the banks of the Towy and of the Ganges. For further information respecting this Institution, we refer to their ANNUAL REPORTS, and to the *Anniversary Sermons* preached before the Society; particularly to the *Seventh* Edition of DR. VALPY'S excellent Anniversary Sermon, first delivered in the year 1802.

* In this respect, we cannot do better than attend to the suggestions of the poet:

> ——While the vital fire
> Burns feebly, heap not the green fuel on;
> But prudently fomcat the wandering spark,
> With what the soonest feels its kindred touch:
> Be frugal even of that; a little give,
> At first; that kindled, add a little more;
> Till by deliberate nourishing, the flame,
> Revived, with all its wonted vigour glows.
>
> ARMSTRONG.

Astronomical Occurrences

In APRIL 1824.

In oldest time, when from primæval night
Creation rose, to being, bliss, and light,
Above the ethereal vault, yon conclave blue;
The Architect divine, to angel's view,
Bid, with surrounding globes, the pendent earth
First charm the gaze, and smiling leap to birth.

GOMPERTZ.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Taurus at 3 m. after 4, in the morning of the 20th of this month; and he rises and sets, during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

April 1st,	Sun rises	34 m. after	5.	Sets 26 m. after	6
6th,		24	5	36	6
11th,		15	5	45	6
16th,		5	5	55	6
21st,		56	4	4	7
26th,		46	4	14	7

Equation of Time.

The following Table exhibits the difference between apparent and mean time on certain days during this month; and the numbers must be employed as therein directed in finding the one from the other. For mean time follow the Table; for apparent time do the reverse.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

			m.	s.
Thursday, April 1st,		to the time by the dial *add*	3	55
Tuesday,	6th,		2	26
Sunday,	11th,		1	1
Friday,	16th,	from the time by the dial *subt.*	0	16
Wednesday,	21st,		1	25
Monday,	26th,		2	21

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	6th day,	at 18 m. after	10	at night
Full Moon, ...	13th, ...	47	3	in the afternoon
Last Quarter,	21st, ...	10	6	in the morning
New Moon, ...	29th, ...	25	4	.....

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The Moon will make the following transits this month, at favourable times for observation should the weather prove clear: viz.

April	5th, at	2 m. after	5	in the evening
	6th, ...	1	6	.....
	7th, ...	58	6	.....
	8th, ...	53	7	.....
	9th, ...	45	8	.....
	10th, ...	37	9	.....
	11th, ...	27	10	at night
	12th, ...	18	11	.....
	19th, ...	40	4	in the morning
	20th, ...	29	5	.....
	21st, ...	16	6	.....
	22d, ...	0	7	.....
	23d, ...	43	7	.....
	24th, ...	24	8	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

By correctly observing this queen of the planetary world, it will be found that her phases bear the following proportions to each other at the beginning of this month: viz.

April 1st, { Illuminated part 10·24017
Dark part ..... 1·75983

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Such of the eclipses of the first and second of these small bodies as are visible at the Royal Observatory this month, with the times of their happening, are exhibited in the following enumeration. As the nights shorten, the number of these necessarily diminishes.

Emersions.

First Satellite, ...	7th	day, at	10 m.	47 s.	after	10	at night
	23d	.....	30	... 33		8	.....
	30th	.....	26	... 0		10	.....
Second Satellite,	4th	.....	54	... 58		10	.....

Form of Saturn's Ring.

The following numbers express the relative proportions of the two axes of this singular phenomenon, at the beginning of this month: viz.

April 1st, { Transverse axis ..... 1·000
Conjugate axis ..... = 0·446

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*
Mercury	11 22 *mor.*	11 43	11 53	0 26 *aft.*	0 51
Venus	10 7 *mor.*	10 13	10 18	10 23	10 27
Mars	11 25 *night*	10 56	10 27	9 59	9 32
Jupiter	5 29 *aft.*	5 11	4 52	4 33	4 15
Saturn	2 35 *aft.*	2 16	1 57	1 37	1 18
G. Sidus	6 18 *mor.*	6 0	5 39	5 13	4 54
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	36°54′	42° 3′	47°33′	52°57′	57° 35′
Venus	29 51	32 30	35 16	38 5	40 56
Mars	40 38	41 17	41 48	42 9	42 19
Jupiter	62 2	62 2	62 1	61 59	61 57
Saturn	54 47	54 58	55 9	55 21	55 33
G. Sidus	15 33	15 34	15 34	15 34	15 35

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

April 6th,	with ♑ in Gemini	at	0 m.	after 9	at night
19th, ...	G. Sidus	...	0	11	.....
30th, ...	Mercury	...	0	4	in the afternoon

Georgium Sidus will be in quadrature at 30 m. past 12 on the 5th. The same day there will also be an eclipse of Jupiter by the Moon; the immersion will take place at 29¼ m. after 11 at night, and at 0¼′ south of the Moon's centre; and the emersion at 22¼ m. after midnight, at 5½′ north of the centre. Mercury will be in his superior conjunction at 11 in the morning of the 12th; and Georgium Sidus will

be stationary on the 20th. Mercury will also be in conjunction with ♃ in Aries at 10 at night on the 24th of this month.

To these Occurrences we shall annex the following lines on the Evening Star, which frequently shines with peculiar splendour during this month.

The EVENING STAR.

The EVENING STAR illumines the blue south,
Twinkling in loveliness. O! holy Star,
Thou bright dispenser of the twilight dews,
Thou herald of Night's glowing galaxy,
And harbinger of social bliss! how oft,
Amid the twilights of departed years,
Resting beside the river's mirror clear
On trunk of massy oak, with eyes upturned
To thee in admiration, have I sate,
Dreaming sweet dreams, till earth-born turbulence
Was all forgot; and thinking that in thee,
Far from the rudeness of this jarring world,
There might be realms of quiet happiness.

Blackwood's Magazine.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS.

[Continued from p. 55.]

SCORPIO (♏), *the Scorpion.*

THIS is the eighth sign in the order of the Zodiac, the second of the southern signs, and that which the Sun enters on the 23d of October. Like most of the other signs, different reasons have been offered for the introduction of Scorpio into the Zodiac. The antient poets of Greece affirm that this is the Scorpion which Diana sent to wound Orion for usurping her office. Ovid says, that it was produced from the earth to punish Orion for boasting that there was not any animal which he could not conquer. But others have supposed that the Scorpion was adopted as an emblem of autumn, which brings with it a variety of diseases, and which might therefore be aptly symbolized by the Scorpion, which wounds

with its tail as it recedes. This sign was antiently represented by different symbols; as a snake, a crocodile, a scorpion, &c., and was considered by the old astrologers as a sign accursed. The Egyptians fixed the entrance of the Sun into Scorpius at the commencement of the reign of Typhon; and from this and other circumstances, it appears that the Greeks, who fabled the death of Orion at this time, were not the first who employed the Scorpion as an astronomical sign. Kircher and some other writers affirm that the Scorpion was the sign allotted to Dan, agreeably to the prophetic declaration of the patriarch, '*Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path;*' and they say that 'Scorpius was painted on the standard of Dan.'

Scorpio is contiguous to Serpentarius and Serpens on the north, to Sagittarius on the east, to Lupus, Norma, and Ara on the south, and to Libra on the west. The tail of Scorpio does not appear above the horizon at London. This sign contains 44 stars, one of the 1st magnitude, one of the 2d, eleven of the 3d, eight of the 4th, &c. *Antares* is the most conspicuous, and is sometimes called *Cor Scorpii*. It rises at London on the south-east point of the compasses; and at the beginning of 1824 had a declination of 26° 1′ 54″ south, with a right ascension of 244° 30′ 14″; and a meridian altitude of 12° 27′ 15″. Antares rose and culminated on the 1st of each month in 1820 as follows:

	Rising.		*Culminating.*			*Rising.*		*Culminating.*	
	h.	m.	h.	m.		h.	m.	h	m.
January	6	0 *mor.*	9	28 *mor.*	July.....	6	15 *aft.*	9	37 *aft.*
February	3	45	7	16	August.	4	15	7	33 .....
March...	2	0	5	28	Sept.....	2	15	5	37 .....
April.....	0	10 *aft.*	3	34	October	0	25 *mor.*	3	49 .....
May.....	10	25	1	43	Novemb.	10	25	1	53 .....
June.....	8	25	11	41 *aft.*	Decemb.	8	15	11	46 *mor.*

Antares shines with a deep red light, and is found on a line drawn from Vega through α Ophiuchi. It is likewise the vertex of a triangle formed with Vega

and Arcturus. β in the head of the Scorpion, and Antares, may be readily found by the assistance of the figure given in the Reflections for February; and when these are determined, a line drawn from the former through the latter will intersect the tail of the Scorpion. When Antares rises in the south east, Spica Virginis is on the meridian, and Procyon in the western horizon. When Antares is on the meridian with an altitude of about 12° 30′, Capricornus rises on the south east by east point; Castor and Pollux are in the northern horizon, Arcturus and Spica Virginis are between the zenith and the south west point. When Antares sets in the south west, Cygnus is in the zenith.

[To be continued.]

The Naturalist's Diary

For APRIL 1824.

Now APRIL lavishly unfolds
The violet's bloom, the chesnut's flowers,
And, amid weeping clouds, beholds,
With smiling eye, her verdant bowers;
And, ere she bids those bowers 'farewell,'
Woos Love to bless them with his spell. B. BARTON.

THE 'pleasures of the chequered Spring,' which are usually the product of this delightful month, are often retarded by the piercing gales of Winter—his last struggling sighs—violent but transitory; sometimes, however, so fervent are the beams of the Sun, that the fires on our hearths are extinguished, on the arrival of its successor 'May the Grace.'—This latter month, however, is not always of so mild a character; cold and bleak winds still frighten the bland and gentle zephyr from paying his court to the flowery tribe.

Dulce vecino de la verde selva,
Huesped eterno del *Abril* florido,
Vital aliento de la madre Vénus
Cefiro blando. *Villegas.*

To the ZEPHYR.

Sweet neighbour of the green, leaf-shaking grove,
Eternal guest of April, frolic child
Of a sad sire, life-breath of mother Love,
Favonius, zephyr mild!

If thou hast learned like me to love—away!
Thou who hast borne the murmurs of my cry;
Hence—no demur—and to my Flora say,
Say that 'I die!'

'Flora once knew what bitter tears I shed;
Flora once wept to see my sorrows flow;
Flora once loved me, but I dread, I dread
Her anger now.'

So may the gods, so may the calm blue sky,
For the fair time that thou, in gentle mirth,
Sport'st in the air, with love benign deny
Snows to the earth!

So never may the grey cloud's cumbrous sail,
When from on high the rosy daybreak springs,
Beat on thy shoulders, nor its evil hail
Wound thy fine wings! WIFFEN.

The Sun having advanced in his annual progress, dispenses light and heat, and calls forth all the energies of spring, whose cheering influence is felt equally in the humblest valley and on the loftiest mountain.

[1] See his 'Essay on Spanish Poetry,' (p. 54) prefixed to his translation of the works of *Garcilasso de la Vega*, which we strongly recommend to the notice of every admirer of elegant literature. Mr. *Wiffen*, another '*Quaker* Poet,' is already known to the public by some beautiful pieces published under the title of '*Aonian Hours*,' '*Alpinula and other Poems*,' and by a specimen of a '*Version of Tasso's Jerusalem Delivered*,' from which we augur most favourably of the entire work,—long a desideratum in our literature. As, like Mr. Wiffen, we have amused our leisure minutes with listening to the chaunts of the Iberian muse, we look with impatience to the production of his forthcoming '*Spanish Anthology*,' with short biographical notices, which cannot fail of affording a rich treat to the admirers of the bardic effusions of this noble, but oppressed nation. Mr. Wiffen, we believe, is Librarian to his Grace the Duke of Bedford;—he does not, like too many others of his craft, *sleep at his post*. Long may he enjoy the classic retirement of Woburn Abbey—and long, very long, may he delight us with the fruits of his researches in Spanish and Italian literature.—Garcilasso is printed in Mr. Moyes's best style, and is quite a *bijou* in its way.

> The *bleakest* rock upon the loneliest heath
> Feels in its barrenness some touch of Spring;
> And in the April dew, or beam of May,
> Its *moss* and *lichen* freshen and revive. BEAUMONT.

The month of April is a very interesting one to the *ornithologist*, as, at this period, most of our migrating birds return from their travels, and we recognise in the grove and the hedgerow the voices of many of our old acquaintances, which we as much expect to hear about this time, as if an appointment were made for that purpose; and we greet them as the harbingers of a delightful season. A person conversant with birds will know them as certainly by their voice, or flight, as if the creature were in his hands. And what more delightful occupation can there be at this season, than to see

> The young bird, with daylight waking,
> Startle him from his dreamy nest;

and, 'airy as the dancing spray,' wing his course from the pensile and trembling stem of his nest-tree!

The arrival of the *swallow*, about the middle of the month, foretels the approach of summer. One of the early French poets, *Pierre de Ronsard*, thus salutes the *forerunners* of, and attendants upon this delightful season:—

> Dieu vous gard, messagers fideles
> Du printemps, vistes *arondelles*,
> Hupes, *cocus*, *rossignolets*,
> Tourtres, et vous oiseaux sauvages,
> Qui de cent sortes de ramages
> Animez les bois verdelets.
>
> Dieu vous gard, belles paquerettes,
> Belles roses, belles fleurettes,
> Et vous boutons jadis cognus
> Du sang d'Ajax et de Narcisse:
> Et vous thym, anis, et melisse,
> Vous soyez les bien revenus.
>
> Dieu vous gard, troupe diaprée
> De papillons, qui par la prée
> Les douces herbes sucotez;

Et vous nouvel essain d'abeilles,
Qui les fleurs jaunes et vermeilles
De votre bouche baisotez:

Cent mille fois je resaluë
Votre belle et douce venuë:
O que j'aime ceste saison,
Et ce doux caquet de rivages
Au prix des vents et des orages
Qui m'enfermoient en la maison. L. iv, O. xviii[1].

After the swallow, the next bird that appears is the nightingale (*motacilla luscinia*), whose praises have been chaunted by poets of every clime, and have occupied many a page in this month's Diary of our previous volumes. We now bring a tribute from the treasures of Spanish song, fervently hoping that the notes of the delicious nightingale may be once more heard in peace in her beautiful vallies.

[1] Thus translated in the *London Magazine* for 1822:—

God shield ye, heralds of the spring,
Ye faithful *swallows* fleet of wing,
Houps, *cuckoos, nightingales*,
Turtles, and every wilder bird,
That make your hundred chirpings heard
Through the green woods and dales.

God shield ye, Easter daisies all,
Fair roses, buds and blossoms small;
And ye, whom erst the gore
Of Ajax and Narciss did print,
Ye wild thyme, anise, balm, and mint,
I welcome ye once more.

God shield ye, bright embroidered train
Of butterflies, that, on the plain,
Of each sweet herblet sip;
And ye new swarm of bees that go
Where the pink flowers and yellow grow,
To kiss them with your lip.

A hundred thousand times I call—
A hearty welcome on ye all:
This season how I love!
This merry din on every shore,
For winds and storms, whose sullen roar
Forbade my steps to rove.

En la huerta nace la rosa
quierome ir allá
por oir al ruiseñor
como cantaba.

The NIGHTINGALE.

The rose looks out in the valley,
And thither will I go,
To the rosy vale, where the nightingale
Sings his song of woe.

The virgin is on the river side
Culling the lemons pale;
Thither—yes! thither will I go,
To the rosy vale, where the nightingale
Sings his song of woe.

The fairest fruit her hand hath culled,
'Tis for her lover all:
Thither—yes! thither will I go,
To the rosy vale, where the nightingale
Sings his song of woe.

In her hat of straw, for her gentle swain,
She has placed the lemons pale.
Thither—yes! thither will I go,
To the rosy vale, where the nightingale
Sings his song of woe. *London Magazine.*

The contest of the nightingale with the musician has been already noticed; and some beautiful verses on the subject may be seen in T. T. for 1822, p. 118; we have only space for two or three brief illustrations from an admired modern poet:—

And when she sung to her lute's touching strain,
'Twas like the notes, half ecstasy, half pain,
The bulbul utters, ere her soul depart,
When, vanquished by some minstrel's powerful art,
She dies upon the lute whose sweetness broke her heart!

—

There's a bower of roses[1] by Bendemeer's stream,
And the nightingale sings round it all the day long;
In the time of my childhood 'twas like a sweet dream,
To sit in the roses and hear the bird's song.

[1] The supposed attachment of the nightingale to the *rose*, is thus alluded to by a Persian poet; 'You may place (says he) a hundred handfuls of fragrant herbs and flowers before the nightingale, yet he wishes not, in his constant heart, for more than the sweet breath of his beloved rose.'

That bower and its music I never forget;
But oft when alone in the bloom of the year,
I think—is the nightingale singing there yet?
Are the roses still bright by the calm Bendemeer?

No, the roses soon withered that hung o'er the wave,
But some blossoms were gathered, while freshly they shone,
And a dew was distilled from their flowers, that gave
All the fragrance of summer, when summer was gone.
Thus memory draws from delight, ere it dies,
An essence that breathes of it many a year;
Thus bright to my soul, as 'twas then to my eyes,
Is that bower on the banks of the calm Bendemeer!

What beautiful little bird, the wryneck (*jynx torquilla*), makes its appearance about the middle of the month, preceding the *cuckoo* by a few days. The well-known cry of the *cuculus canorus* is heard soon after the wryneck, and ceases the latter end of June.

To the Cuckoo.

Lone bird, I hear thy melancholy voice,
Amid the woods and thickets wandering;
For it delighteth thee when coming spring
Puts forth the green leaf, and the flowers rejoice
To herald forth the beauties of the year.
I know not why thy monotones appear
Wild and unearthly; and the hollow sound,
As it glows floating on the air around,
Seems born and destined for another sphere,
But so it is; and though to some thou'rt drear,
To me there is a measure in the tone
Of thy simplicity, which strikes my ear
With solitary sweetness, never known
To them who wander not 'mid forests wild—alone:

The other summer birds of passage which arrive this month, make their appearance in the following order: the ring-ousel (*turdus torquatus*), the redstart (*motacilla phœnicurus*), frequenting old walls and ruinous edifices; the yellow wren (*motacilla trochilus*), the swift, the white throat (*motacilla sylva*), the grasshopper lark (*alauda trivialis*), the smallest of the lark kind; and the willow wren, which, as well as the house-wren, destroys many pernicious insects. The *stone curlew*, or great plover, arrives about this

time.—For some observations on the *sleep of birds*, see T. T. for 1821, p. 121.

The kite (*falco milvus*) now approaches farm-houses and villages, in search of food and materials for constructing his nest; at other times, unless pinched by hunger, he cautiously avoids man, and all his haunts. The kite is quite a local bird, found only in the vicinity of woods, or where large trees abound; in some counties he is rarely seen, and then only perhaps in his progress to other places. A fine stately fowl, and dignified in all his actions, his motions do not partake of the confused hurry of the buzzard, but he circles calmly in the air, or takes his flight, with a sedateness peculiar to himself. In common with most birds that prey upon animal substances, when the lower regions become heated he rises to a great height, for the purpose of seeking a more temperate atmosphere. He lines his nest with bits of rubbish which he picks up on the outskirts of villages. His roost is upon the higher boughs of the tallest trees, where he is often entrapped, and captured, by having his feet frozen, during a rimy night, to the spray on which he has perched.

The process of vegetation is general and rapid in this month. The sloe (*prunus spinosa*) puts forth its elegant flowers; a host of others follow, among which may be named the ash (*fraxinus excelsior*), ground-ivy (*glecoma hederacea*), and the box tree (*buxus sempervirens*). The apricot, the peach, nectarine, the wild and garden cherry, and the plum, gooseberry and currant trees, and the sycamore (*acer pseudo-platanus*), are now in flower. The blossoms of the apple and pear present to the eye a most agreeable spectacle, particularly in those counties which abound with orchards.

The BLOSSOM.

Little thinkest thou, poor flower,
Whom I have watch'd six or seven days,
And seen thy birth, and seen what every hour
Gave to thy growth, thee to this height to raise,

And now dost laugh and triumph on this bough,
Little thinkest thou
That it will freeze anon, and that I shall
To-morrow find thee fallen, or not at all. DONNE.

The beech (*fagus sylvatica*), the larch (*pinus larix rubra*), and the elm (*ulmus campestris*), are now in *full leaf*. The larch, also, exhibits its red tufts or flowers, which soon expand into cones, and the fir tribe show their cones also. That magnificent and beautiful tree, the horse-chesnut (*hippocastanum*), now displays its honours of fine green leaves and its handsome 'spikes pyramidal' of white and red flowers: it is quite the glory of forest trees.—The laurel is in flower. At Castle Hill, the seat of Earl Fortescue, in the parish of Filleigh, the Portugal laurels in the shrubbery are of a remarkable size: the trunk of the smallest of four is six feet seven inches in circumference; that of the largest nine feet one inch; the spread of the branches of the latter is 135 feet in circumference.

The vine (*vitis vinifera*) now expands its empurpled leaves. Honesty, or moonwort (*lunaria*), is in flower: this common, yet not inelegant plant will flourish in any soil or situation, however impoverished and bleak. The new sprung leaves of the sweet chesnut (*fagus castanea*), in their turn, are playing in the breeze. The black currant presents its blossom to the bee. The fragrant flowers of the red, and a few of the white lilac, are gradually expanding.

The *violet* is still seen and loved for its own and for remembrance sake:—

The way-side violet,
That shines unseen, and, were it not
For its sweet breath, would be forgot.

Many other lovely *flowers* are showered from the lap of April: among them may be named jonquil, anemoné, ranunculus, polyanthus, and the crown imperial. The double white, the yellow, and some

others of the earlier *tulips*, are fully opened in this month; but the more illustrious varieties will not blow for some weeks. This tribe is the gayest offspring of floriculture. Other flowers which adorn our fields, at this time, are the checquered daffodil (*fritillaria meleagris*), the primrose, the 'yellow cowslip bending its slender stem'[1], the lady-smock, and the harebell[2].

The yellow star of Bethlehem (*ornithogalum luteum*) in woods; the vernal squill (*scilla verna*) among maritime rocks; and the wood-sorrel (*oxalis acetosella*), are now in full flower. This and the wood anemoné (*anemone nemorosa*), have both white blossoms, and inhabit shady woods.

Young *moles* are now to be found in their nests; this is a good time, therefore, for destroying them. *Weasels* and *stoats* are great enemies to moles, and frequently get into their holes, kill the inhabitants, and take up their own abode there.

The tenants of the air are, in this month, busily employed in forming their temporary habitations, and in rearing and maintaining their offspring.—For poetical illustrations, see our former volumes.

About the middle of April, the bittern (*ardea stellaris*) makes a hollow *booming* noise, during the night in the breeding season, from its swampy retreats. For some beautiful lines 'To a Water-fowl,' by an American poet, see our last volume, p. 115.

Various kinds of insects are now seen 'sporting in the sun-beams,' and living their 'little hour.' The jumping spider (*aranea scenica*) is observed on garden walls; and the webs of other species of spiders are found on the bushes, palings, and outsides of houses. The *iulus terrestris* appears, and the death-watch (*termes pulsatorius*) begins early in the month. The

[1] It is asserted as a remarkable fact, that the cowslip, though it abounds in the meadows of Dorsetshire and Somersetshire, has never been found, in its wild state, in the adjoining county of Devon.

[2] For a pleasing poetical illustration, see our last volume, p. 113.

wood-ant (*formica herculanea*) now begins to construct its large conical nest. Little maggots, the first state of young ants, are now to be found in their nests. The shell-snail comes out in troops; the stinging-fly (*conops calcitrans*) and the red-ant (*formica rubra*) appear.

The mole-cricket (*gryllus gryllotalpa*) is the most remarkable of the insect tribe seen about this time. The blue flesh-fly (*musca vomitoria*) and the dragon-fly (*libellula*) are frequently observed towards the end of the month. The great variegated *libellula* (*libellula varia* of Shaw), which appears, *principally*, towards the decline of summer, is an animal of singular beauty. The cabbage butterfly, also, (*papilio brassica*) now appears. The black slug (*limax ater*) abounds at this season. For the best mode of destroying them, see T. T. for 1821, p. 129. The newt (*lacerta aquatica*) is now seen crawling along the bottoms of ponds and deep ditches.

River fish leave their winter retreats, and again become the prey of the angler.

Towards the end of the month, the song of the black-cap (*motacilla atricapilla*) is heard, affording great delight to the lovers of rural harmony. He is very destructive in the garden, and is particularly fond of the Antwerp raspberry and a ripe jargonel pear.—See T. T. for 1821, p. 122.

The spring flight of pigeons (*columbæ*) appears in this month, or early in the next. This and the two following months make the busy season in the poultry yard and the *menagerie*; and to such as are not already possessed of the work, we strongly recommend *Mr. Bonington Mowbray's Treatise on Domestic Poultry*, as an excellent manual in conducting those interesting and useful departments.

During April and May, only a few successional crops require the attention of the horticulturist, his main ones being inserted in the previous months: weeding, thinning, and keeping his tribes 'in order

strict and due propriety,' claim his chief exertions; and these cares are in no small degree increased by the mild temperature and genial showers of the present season; so rapidly indeed do the weeds advance, that the extirpating hoe needs to be the gardener's constant *vade-mecum*.

In our last year's Diary (p. 109), we gave some extracts from a beautiful little poem, entitled the 'April Day,' by the author of the 'Widow of Nain and other poems: as a companion-picture we introduce the following stanzas, which delightfully pourtray the enchanting results of this season, in spots where those results most beautifully display themselves. They are addressed, as their superscription denotes, to Mr. BERNARD BARTON, and are the production of *Mr. Mitford*, author of 'Agnes, or the Indian Captive, and other Poems.' We scarcely know whether most to admire the elegance and beauty of the poetry, or the fascinations of the spot so pleasingly pourtrayed. As the verses have only appeared in a provincial paper, we are desirous of giving them a more permanent asylum, as well as a more extended circulation:—

EXPOSTULATION: *addressed to* BERNARD BARTON.

A silent dwelling, hid from vulgar eye,
Amid its bowers of cedar mantled round,
Just hears, above, the gale of evening sigh,
Or ocean breathe from out his depths profound.

And welcome was the hour, when to those glades
The gentle minstrel bent his willing feet;
When, like the pensive genius of the shades,
He spread, beneath their boughs, his noonday seat.

There manhood met him with the hand of truth,
And greetings too from softer lips were there;
And e'en the frolic innocence of youth
Would half beguile him of his weight of care.

Then wherefore should the purple summer come,
And fill the bosom of the vale with flowers,

If neither song of birds, nor bees' wild hum,
Can win the bard to his forsaken bowers?

For him unrolled each treasured volume lies,
Her evening-lute for him has beauty strung;
And haste, oh, haste! the voice of friendship cries,
That oft in rapture on those lips has hung.

The *primrose-tufts* shall breathe along the plain,
Her *violet-showers* shall softened APRIL bring;
But shall these groves be *vocal* once again?
And will the *Nightingale* return with Spring?

Benhall, Suffolk.

MAY.

MAY is so called from *Maia*, the mother of Mercury, to whom sacrifices were offered by the Romans on the 1st of this month; or, according to some, from respect to the senators and nobles of Rome, who were named *Majores*, as the following month was termed Junius, in honour of the youth of Rome.

Remarkable Days

In MAY 1824.

1.—MAY DAY.

ALL ranks, formerly, went out into the woods a maying early on the 1st of this month; returning laden with boughs and garlands, and spending the remainder of the day in dancing round a May-pole. This custom is still preserved in various remote districts of England. See our last volume, pp. 118, 119, and T. T. for 1822, pp. 129-131, where the observation of May Day, in the time of Queen Elizabeth is noticed, and Mr. Leslie's interesting picture on this subject, exhibited at Somerset House in the year 1821, is alluded to, as conveying an excellent representation of these innocent gaieties: we have now to add a pleasing illustration,—a beautiful copy

of Mr. Leslie's picture, almost equal to the original, from the easel of a youthful poetess, whose elegant contributions have long graced the columns of the LITERARY GAZETTE.

On MAY DAY, *by Leslie.*

Beautiful and radiant May,
Is not this thy festal day?
Is not this spring revelry
Held in honour, Queen, of thee?
'Tis a fair; the booths are gay,
With green boughs and quaint display;
Glasses, where the Maiden's eye
May her own sweet face espy;
Ribands for her braided hair,
Beads to grace her bosom fair;
From yon stand the juggler plays
With the rustic crowd's amaze;
There the morris-dancers stand,
Glad bells ringing on each hand;
Here the maypole rears its crest,
With the rose and hawthorn drest;
And beside are painted bands
Of strange beasts from other lands.
In the midst, like the young Queen,
Flower-crowned, of the rural green,
Is a bright-cheeked girl, her eye
Blue, like April's morning sky,
With a blush, like what the rose
To her moonlight minstrel shows;
Laughing at her love the while,—
Yet such softness in the smile,
As the sweet coquette would hide
Woman's love by woman's pride.
Farewell, cities! who could bear
All their smoke and all their care,
All their pomp, when wooed away
By the azure hours of May?
Give me woodbine, scented bowers,
Blue wreaths of the violet flowers,
Clear sky, fresh air, sweet birds, and trees,
Sights and sounds, and scenes like these! L. E. L.

A correspondent in the 'Edinburgh Star' of May 2, 1823, gives the following interesting account of the celebration of this day in Scotland: 'On the 1st of May, about sun-rise, a numerous group of young

men and nymphs marched in procession to the martial sound of the bag-pipe, to Arthur's seat, near Edinburgh, to welcome in the day. We are happy to find that the present generation are disposed to keep alive the days of auld lang syne, so beautifully described by our immortal poet Robert Ferguson:—

What makes auld Reekie's dames sae fair?
It cannot be the halesome air,
But *caller burn*, beyond compare
The best o' ony
That gars them a' *sic* graces skair,
And blink sae bonny.

On *May Day*, in a fairy ring,
We've seen them round St. *Anthon's* spring
Frae grass the caller *dew-draps* wring,
To weet their ein
And water clear as crystal spring,
To synd them clean.

O may they still pursue the way,
To look sae feat, sae clean, sae gay!
Then shall their beauties glance like *May*,
And, like *her*, be
The goddess of the vocal spray,
The Muse, and me.

'The young folks continued to assemble till between nine and ten o'clock, and so great was the concourse at one time, in this sequestered and romantic situation, that it reminded some present of the description given by our forefathers of the meetings held by the Covenanters of old.'

The rural custom of electing a May-Queen among the country belles, is still practised in some parts of Spain. The name of *Maia*, given to the handsomest lass of the village, who, decorated with garlands of flowers, leads the dances in which the young people spend the day, shows how little that ceremony has varied since the time of the Romans. The villagers, in other provinces, declare their love by planting, during the preceding night, a large bough or a sapling, decked with flowers, before the doors of their sweethearts. As most of the antient church festivals

were contrived as substitutes for the pagan rites, which the christian priesthood could not otherwise eradicate, there are still some remnants of the sanctified *May-pole* in the little crosses, which the children ornament with flowers, and place upon tables, holding as many lighted tapers as, from the contributions of their friends, they can afford to buy.—*(Doblado's Letters on Spain,* p. 301.*)*

1.—SAINT PHILIP AND SAINT JAMES THE LESS.

Philip was born at Bethsaida, near the sea of Tiberias, the city of Andrew and Peter. He was one of the first disciples, and an apostle. James the Less, called also *James the Just*, and, by the apostle Paul, *James*, the Lord's brother, was the son of Joseph, afterwards husband to the Virgin Mary, as is probable by his first wife. The first of these martyrs was stoned to death, and the second, having been thrown from a high place, was killed by a fuller's staff.

*2. 1823.—LORD GLENBERVIE DIED, ÆT. 80.

His lordship was formerly a good law reporter, and author of several esteemed professional works. He married Lady Ann North, daughter of the Prime Minister, a connection which brought him into political life; and, in 1801, he was created an Irish peer. His lordship lately published a translation of the first Canto of Ricciardetto, a romantic, satirical Italian poem, by Fortiguerri.

3.—INVENTION OF THE CROSS.

The Romish church celebrates this day as a festival, to commemorate the *invention* or finding of a wooden *cross*, supposed to be the *true one*, by Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great.—An interesting description of *Calvary*, where our Saviour was nailed to the cross, from the pen of a modern traveller, will be found in our last volume, p. 120.

6.—JOHN EVANGELIST, A. P. L.

John the Evangelist, so called from the Greek term *Εὐάγγελος*, the messenger of glad tidings, was

a Galilean by birth, the son of Zebedee and Salome, the younger brother of James, but not of him that was surnamed the Just, and who was the brother of our Lord. His brother James and he were surnamed by Jesus, the *Sons of Thunder*, meaning the principal ministers of the gospel, and John was more endeared to him than any of his disciples. He was condemned to be thrown into a cask of burning oil, Ante Port. Lat., before the gate of Latina; hence the letters added to his name. He lived to the reign of Trajan, and died about ninety years of age.—For a curious ecclesiastical tradition respecting St. John's visit to Ephesus, with a beautiful poetical illustration, see our last volume, pp. 122-124.

*10. 1801.—RICHARD GALL DIED, ÆT. 25.

A very ingenious Scottish poet. After having served his apprenticeship to the printing business with Mr. David Ramsay, then proprietor of the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, he obtained the situation of Mr. Ramsay's travelling clerk, in which employment he continued the few remaining years of his life. The leisure afforded by this change, with the correspondence of Burns and Macneill, and the cordial friendship of Campbell, in the same house with whom he lived, when he was preparing for the press 'The Pleasures of Hope,' increased and were gradually maturing the poetical powers he had exhibited. Dr. Murray, a man of great philological erudition, and a short time professor of Oriental languages in Edinburgh, was also his sincere friend and daily associate; and he was laying the foundation of a career of lasting fame and honour, when a fatal illness seized him, and he died under its influence. In 1819, a very handsome edition of his poems and songs was published by Messrs. Oliver and Boyd, with notes, and a most interesting Memoir of Mr. Gall by the elegant author of 'Contemplation and other Poems,' &c. Many of Mr. Gall's songs have been set to music, and have obtained a

very flattering share of popularity. Their title to that distinction will be admitted by all who have any taste for melody of verse, elegant simplicity, and natural sentiment. The 'Farewell to Ayrshire,' long admired as the production of Burns, is now ascertained to have proceeded from the pen of Mr. Gall. As a specimen of his powers in song writing, the following little piece is selected at random:—

LOCHIE BRAES.

O Mither, spare thy cruel wrath,
It makes my heart sae sadly sair;
Nor think that absence can remove
My heftit love for Willie fair.
Return wi' me to Lochie Braes,
To peacefu' haunts again return:
On Lochie Braes Love's ardent flame
First made my heart in anguish burn.

The tear aye trembles in my e'e,
The bursting sigh aft bids it fa',
Sin' thou frae faithfu' Willie's arms
Has banished me sae far awa.
Think o' the pangs, wert thou bereft
O' the sweet bairnie on thy knee;
Then O forbear—forbear to part—
O, dinna part my love an' me!

*11. 1821.—MARCHIONESS OF WORCESTER DIED. The time was so short between her illness and her death, that the artificial flowers were suffered to remain in her hair.

Those roses glitt'ring o'er her pallid brow,
Why shine they full of life and freshness now,
When she, their lovely wearer, sinks in death,
And ev'ry sigh but seems her parting breath?
Alas, false wreaths! had you light tendrils been,
Such as in summer's bright'ning bow'rs are seen,
Mournful would droop each trivial leaf and flow'r,
die wi[illegible] they graced in life's gay hour,
[illegible]air companions of her doom,
like [illegible] grace her revels and her tomb. R. R.
s radiant

19.—SAINT DUNSTAN.
[illegible]noted to the see of Worcester
Dunstan was pro[illegible]s afterwards Bishop of Lon-
by King Edgar; he wa[illegible] Canterbury. He died in
lon, and Archbishop of

988, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and in the twenty-seventh of his archiepiscopal dignity. His miracles are too commonly known to be repeated.

*22. 1784.—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON DIED,

Father of the Duke of Wellington and the present Viceroy of Ireland. He was one of the most celebrated glee composers of his time; and for several of his compositions he gained the prizes given by the Glee Club. He was also eminent as a performer on the violin; and the service in Dublin cathedral commences every morning with an anthem of his composition.

23.—ROGATION SUNDAY.

This day takes its name from the Latin term *rogare*, to ask; because, on the three subsequent days, *supplications* were appointed by Mamertus, Bishop of Vienna, in the year 469, to be offered up with fasting to God, to avert some particular calamities that threatened his diocese.

26.—AUGUSTIN, *or* AUSTIN.

This *English apostle*, as he is termed, was commissioned by Pope Gregory the Great to convert the Saxons. He was created Archbishop of Canterbury in 556, and died about the year 610.—See a fuller account of him in T. T. for 1815, p. 174.

27.—ASCENSION DAY.

From the earliest times, this day was set apart to commemorate our Saviour's ascension into heaven: all processions on this and the preceding rogation days were abolished at the Reformation.—For a description of the present state of the *Mount of Olives*, whence our Saviour ascended into heaven, see our last volume, p. 126.

27.—VENERABLE BEDE.

Bede was born at Yarrow in Northumberland, in 673. His grand work is the Ecclesiastical History of the Saxons. Bede has obtained the title of *Venerable*, for his profound learning and unaffected piety. —See two beautiful illustrative Sonnets, by *Mr. Wordsworth*, in our last volume, p. 130.

*28. 1546.—CARDINAL BEATON ASSASSINATED, In the castle of St. Andrew's. The immediate cause of this murder was his severity to the Reformers, and particularly the barbarous and illegal execution of the famous George Wishart, a pious and popular preacher, whom the cardinal condemned to the flames alive for heresy; and he exultingly beheld, from his own window, the dismal spectacle of Wishart's sufferings and death. Mr. Tennant, author of 'Anster Fair,' &c. has made this ecclesiastical despot, his contemporaries, and times, the ground-work of a beautiful drama, just published. The whole is executed with so decidedly powerful a hand, that we feel much difficulty in selecting a specimen. The following is from Act ii, Scene iv; *A Garden near the Cathedral*:—

Enter BEATRICE STRANG.

I've seen my mother to her couch to rest,
And I have said my evening prayers with her;
And now I seek this flowery solitude
To entertain my desolated mind
With moonlight, and the garden's silent scenes.
How beautiful, above the sea, the Moon
Has lighted up her sky—adorning torch
Dimming th' abashed stars, and paving all
The bay's expansion, as with twinkling sheets
Of silver fluent on the fluttering wave!
Nearer, the hillocks, valleys, rocks and shores,
Flame out in night's best glory; and the spires
And upper garnished roofs and pinnacles
Of yon Cathedral, gleam and tower on high,
As if exulting to give back the Moon
Her image, and requite her with a sight
Of her own glory, flung amended back
By roofs the brightest that she sees on earth.
The garden, too, is proud, and plumes herself
On her fair early flowers, which she expands
Full to the Moon, as bragging how her brother
Has busked her out, though she regrets not now
His absence in his sister's sweeter beams.
Welcome, sweet light! and with thee welcome too
Thoughts [illegible]divinely soothing melancholy,
That slid[illegible]if by stea[illegible] into the soul,
And fill it with a stilness calm as thine!
[illegible]e day, with all its flashy glaring light,
[illegible]s brawl[illegible]siness, shouts, and din of wheels,

Is well away, and buried in the sea:
To me, and to the sorrowful of heart,
And to the pious saint, and to the lover,
This lonely hour comes on more peace-giving,
And more accordant to their museful mood;
For I have been in sorrow all the day,
And, having wiped my tears, now forth repair
To feed with thoughts my meditative heart.

29.—KING CHARLES II RESTORED.

On the 8th of May, 1660, Charles II was *proclaimed* in London and Westminster, and afterwards throughout his dominions, with great joy and universal acclamations.—See T. T. for 1815, p. 176; for 1820, p. 137; and for 1821, pp. 108-110.

This day is still celebrated in some parts of England with considerable 'pomp and circumstance,' gaiety and splendour. At *Shrewsbury*, the different trading companies, with appropriate emblems, march in procession, and finish the day with a fête champetre. In the year 1821 (thanks to the good sense and good taste of the people of *Worcester*), the observance of this festival was revived with great spirit.

MAY —1823.—DON JUAN LLORENTE DIED.

This noble Spaniard, the historian of his country and her institutions, was among the first dignitaries of the church of Spain; to which, notwithstanding the temptations of a corrupt court, where his talents and his learning had obtained him a considerable degree of favour and influence, he was an ornament, by the correctness and decorum of his manners. A long list of his works might be given; but as they are little known in this country, it may be sufficient to mention his 'Complete History of the Spanish Inquisition, from the period of its establishment by Ferdinand V to the present time, from the most authentic documents,' translated into English in 1817. In this work, the energy of his genius, bursting the fetters then imposed by the Inquisition on the intellect of his countrymen, broke out on every side in power, and seized at once on all the strong holds of priestly domination. He dissipated the darkness which for

centuries had covered the Inquisition; and he disclosed to the public eye the full deformity of that horrid tribunal.

The Inquisition was instituted by Pope Innocent III, about the year 1200. Its first efforts were directed against the Albigenses in the South of France; and in no long time it found its way into almost every country in Europe (Britain excepted), where Popery was the dominant religion. The most active and celebrated of these tribunals was the SPANISH INQUISITION, which, by an unaccountable perversion of language, has been termed the *Holy Office*. It was first introduced into Spain about the year 1231, and was sufficiently active and intolerant in that country until 1481, when Ferdinand V and Pope Sixtus IV established what is called the *modern* Inquisition, under the direction of Inquisitors-General, with a host of subordinate officers.

General Table of the Number of the VICTIMS *of the* INQUISITION *in* SPAIN, *under forty-five Inquisitors-General, between* 1481 *and* 1820.

Between	*Burnt Alive!*	*Burnt in Effigy.*	*Condemned to the Galleys, or to Imprisonment.*
1481 & 1498, under the Inquisitor-generalship of Torquemada....	10,220	6,840	97,371
1498 — 1507, under that of Deza.....	2,592	829	32,952
1507 — 1517, under that of the Cardinal de Ximenes.....	3,564	2,232	48,039
1517 — 1521, under that of Adrian de Florencio.....	1,620	560	21,835
1521 — 1523, (an Interregnum).....	324	112	4,481
1532 — 1538, under the Inquisitor-generalship of Manrique.....	2,250	1,125	11,250
1538 — 1545, under that of Tabera.....	840	420	6,520
1546 — 1556, under that of Loaisa, and during the reign of the Emperor Charles V.....	1,320	660	6,600
1556 — 1597, during the reign of Philip II.	3,990	1,845	18,450
1597 — 1621, during that of Philip III. ...	1,840	692	10,716
1621 — 1665, during that of Philip IV. ...	2,852	1,428	14,080
1665 — 1700, during that of Charles II. ...	1,632	540	6,512
1700 — 1746, under that of Philip V.....	1,600	760	9,120
1746 — 1759, under that of Ferdinand VI.	10	5	170
1759 — 1788, under that of Charles III. ..	4	0	56
1788 — 1808, under that of Charles IV. ...	0	1	42
Total.....	34,658	18,049	288,214

The sum total, therefore, of the victims of the Inquisition in Spain, between 1481 and 1808, amounts to *three hundred and forty thousand nine hundred and twenty-one*, exclusive of a very considerable number of persons who have been imprisoned, condemned to the gallies, or exiled from Spain under the reign of Ferdinand VII, the present imbecile sovereign of that unhappy country. What cruelties may not be expected, should despotism ultimately be re-established there? For, it should never be forgotten, that *torture of the most horrid kind* forms a part of the regular system of the Holy Office. If to the condemnations which have taken place in the Peninsula, during the period above noticed, we add those of other countries subject to the Spanish Inquisition, as Sicily, Sardinia, Flanders, the Canary Islands, South America, the Indies, the number of victims condemned by this tribunal would be truly appalling. Not only has the Inquisition decimated the population of Spain by its *autos-da-fe* (or *acts of faith*), but it has also considerably reduced that population by the civil wars and commotions which it has provoked, and especially by procuring the expulsion of the Jews and Moors from that country. More than FIVE MILLIONS of inhabitants have disappeared from Spain since the Holy Office has exercised its terrible ministry.

Astronomical Occurrences

In MAY 1824.

Come, bounteous MAY! in fulness of thy might,
Lead briskly on the mirth-infusing hours,
All recent from the bosom of delight,
With nectar nurtured, and involved in flow'rs.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Gemini at 26 m. after 4 in the morning of the 21st of this month; and he rises and sets as described in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

May 1st,	Sun rises	37	m. after	4.	Sets at	23	m. past 7
6th,	.....	29	.....	4.	.....	31	 7
11th,	.....	21	.....	4.	.....	39	 7
16th,	.....	13	.....	4.	.....	47	 7
21st,	.....	6	.....	4.	.....	54	 7
26th,	.....	0	.....	4.	.....	0	 8
31st,	.....	54	.....	3.	.....	6	 8

Equation of Time.

One of the readiest means of regulating a clock, where a good sun-dial can be consulted, is to subtract the quantities in the following Table, or those found for the intermediate days, from the hour indicated by the dial, and the remainder will be the time which should be shown by the clock at the same moment.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

		m.	s.
Saturday,	May 1st, from the time by the dial *subtract*	3	5
Thursday,	6th, ...	3	36
Tuesday,	11th, ...	3	53
Sunday,	16th, ...	3	56
Friday,	21st, ...	3	45
Wednesday,	26th, ...	3	20
Monday,	31st, ...	2	42

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	6th day,	at 15	m. after	4	in the morning
Full Moon,	13th	34	.....	2	.....
Last Quarter,	20th	37	.....	0	midnight
New Moon,	28th	3	.....	3	in the afternoon

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

From the transits of the Moon over the first meridian this month, the following have been selected as affording the most favourable opportunities for observation, should the weather be clear at those times.

May 5th,	at 54	after	5	in the evening
6th,	... 46	.....	6	.....
7th,	... 36	.....	7	.....

May 8th,	... 25	 8	in the evening
9th,	... 15	 9	.....
10th,	... 5	 10	at night
11th,	... 56	 10	.....
12th,	... 50	 11	.....
18th,	... 11	 4	in the morning
19th,	... 57	 4	.....
20th,	... 40	 5	.....
21st,	... 21	 6	.....
22d,	... 2	 7	.....
23d,	... 43	 7	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

The proportions of the bright and dark phases of this planet, at the commencement of this month, are, viz.

May 1st, { Illuminated part 11·09475
Dark part ..... 0·90525

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Jupiter now approaches so near the Sun as to render the eclipses of most of his satellites altogether invisible. The only two that can be seen this month are one of the second, and another of the third. The former will be an emersion at 36m. 13s. after 10 in the evening of the 6th; the latter will be an immersion at 18 m. 51 s. past 9 in the evening of the 27th.

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	1 14 *aft.*	1 26	1 27	1 17	0 53
Venus	10 31 *mor.*	10 35	10 40	10 44	10 49
Mars	9 7 *even.*	8 44	8 21	8 0	7 40
Jupiter	3 57 *aft.*	3 38	3 20	3 1	2 42
Saturn	0 59 *aft.*	0 39	0 18	11 58 *mor.*	11 30
G. Sidus	4 35 *mor.*	4 8	3 46	3 18	3 1
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	60°51′	62°40′	63° 0′	62°36′	61° 8′
Venus	43 56	46 32	49 3	51 45	54 6
Mars	42 17	42 5	41 44	41 12	44 33
Jupiter	61 55	61 52	61 48	61 43	61 38
Saturn	54 44	55 55	56 7	56 17	56 28
G. Sidus	15 33	15 32	15 31	15 30	15 29

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

May 3d,	with Jupiter	at	0 m. after	11 in the morning
4th,	♄ in Gemini		0	2 .....
17th,	G. Sidus.....		0	7 .....
31st,	Jupiter.....		0	3 .....
31st,	♄ in Gemini....		0	9 .....

Mars will be stationary on the 5th of this month. Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 10th, and be stationary on the 22d. Saturn will likewise be in conjunction at half past 7 in the morning of the 18th. The other astronomical phenomena will be less easy of observation than those already recorded.

—

On the balmy evenings of this month, when a thousand odours perfume the air, and every grove is rendered vocal by its feathery tenants, scarcely any scene is more sublime than the Moon rising in all her silent majesty. If any circumstances have a tendency to soothe the cares and turmoils of the world, it is such a scene as this—at a distance from the busy haunts of men—surrounded by all that is young and delicate, soft and lovely, mild and cheering, in the *Vernal Season.*

RISING *of the* MOON.

The MOON is rising; silence reigns
Upon the hills, and o'er the plains:
The river's rush alone is heard,
Or rustling wing of nighted bird.

Serenely through the forest boughs
The pure effulgence softly glows,
And shadows out the leaflets there,
Unmoved amid the silent air.

The wild-briar bush, in silver flower,
The [illegible]rn tree, the lover's bower,
Unite their perfume exquisite
With the yellow broom, so wild and swee

So cloudless is the sky above,
So freshly fair the leafy grove,
So green the sward, where daisies pied,
And cowslips blossom side by side.

How beautiful is Nature's face!
How full of harmony and grace!
What countless joys doth she bequeath
To all that live, and move, and breathe!

Where is the mourner? Here his mind
Serenity and peace may find;
Where is the wanderer? This the road
Backward to happiness and God!

Blackwood's Magazine.

INFLUENCE *of the* MOON *on the* WEATHER.

IN a climate like ours, whose distinguishing characteristic is the frequent changes to which it is subject, it is natural that the *cause* of these changes should become a topic of repeated and anxious inquiry. This has, consequently, often occupied the attention both of the learned and the unlearned. So various and apparently unconnected are these changes, that little has yet been accomplished, even by way of approximation to the object of the inquiry. We remember to have seen, some years ago, certain rules by which the changes of the weather were to be inferred from those of the Moon. They were ascribed, but, we believe, without the least shadow of truth, to the late Sir William Herschel. The subject has lately been once more renewed; and we shall insert the following observations as among the best we have seen.

'A correspondent in a late number of the 'London Journal of Arts and Sciences,' who appears adverse to the general opinion respecting the Moon's influence on our atmosphere, among other remarks, observes:—

'An opinion prevails among people of the best information, that at the change of the Moon changes of the weather are to be expected. I cannot suppose that, in these enlightened days, any thing like astrological influence is admitted, but presume that, as the Moon is known to exert a gravitating power on the waters of the ocean, and thereby produce tides on

our shores, it is supposed that similar laws affect the atmosphere, and cause the changes of wet and dry. Presuming that this were the case (which, however, I am not intending to admit), those effects arising from the gravitating influence of the Moon would be regular, and wet and dry would succeed each other with the same certainty that we experience the changes of day and night. The opinion, however, which I am combating; and on which I really solicit information, is so generally believed by all classes, that perhaps it would be nearly as difficult to eradicate the notion as to implant a new theological creed. I shall, therefore, propose this simple question: What philosophical reason can be given that changes in the weather should take place at the times that the MOON CHANGES, in preference to any other periods during her monthly revolution?

'We know not whether any theory we can offer by way of explanation of these phenomena, may be sufficiently philosophical for this gentleman's view of the question; for we confess there is no ordinary difficulty in framing any hypothesis which shall not be liable to some objection, or subject to a charge of empirical speculation. We shall, therefore, submit a few observations, without flattering ourselves with the idea of their containing any absolute novelty of opinion, or at all setting the matter at rest; and, at the same time, present our readers with a METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, which we have been in the habit of referring to, in conjunction with the barometer and hygrometer, for several years past, as an amusing, if not a valuable index to the weather.

'With regard to assigning a primary cause that shall be adequate to the production of the utmost vicissitudes in meteorology, we have little hesitation in referring it to attraction. In the first place, to that of the Moon; secondly, that of the Sun and Moon combined.

'If the Moon's attraction be sufficient to produce

the tides (of which fact no one, we presume, can entertain any doubt, after remarking the uniformity with which the time of high water succeeds the Moon's passage of the meridian), why should its attraction not have a proportional influence on the atmosphere?—a fluid whose particles have infinitely greater mobility than those of water. When the Sun and Moon are in conjunction, or rather about thirty hours after the time of new Moon, we invariably notice the highest spring-tides. And analogy fully justifies us in believing there must be a correspondent, though much greater influence exercised on our atmosphere, in proportion to the relative density of the two fluids. It is not to be inferred, however, that the Moon's attraction should necessarily and at all times produce a decided *change* in the weather, either from wet to dry, or *vice versâ*, as that will depend in a great measure on the season of the year, the prevailing wind at the time, and the quarter of the terrestrial hemisphere at which the conjunction takes place. The latter is, in our view of the question, by far the most important point deserving notice, and may be considered as a sort of key to the *data* on which the Table to be given in our Occurrences for July was constructed, and on which any deductions must rest, in framing a general table of the weather with any probability of correctness. Thus, for example, we will suppose the new Moon happens at 3 P.M., when the Sun and Moon are in the S.W. part of the heavens. The conjoint influence of these bodies will in this case operate vertically on that part of our atmosphere which is superincumbent on the Atlantic Ocean. This point will, of course, vary as to N. or S. latitude, according to the Sun's declination at the time. The attraction of the Moon, therefore, in conjunction with that of the Sun, will not only have the effect of accumulating the atmospheric air in that point, but such air will be heated much above the average temperature by being brought under the ver-

tical rays of the Sun, and will, in consequence, have its capacity for holding water in solution greatly increased thereby; the capacity of atmospheric air for aqueous vapour being pretty nearly in the ratio of its temperature, while it can obtain an unlimited supply, as in the case here stated.'

[To be continued.]

The Naturalist's Diary

For MAY 1824.

The seasons.

Lie all confused; and, by the heavens neglected,
Forget themselves; blind Winter meets the Summer
In his mid-way, and, seeing not his livery,
Has driv'n him headlong back; and the new damps
With flaggy wings fly heavily about,
Scattering their pestilential colds and rheums
Through all the lazy air. DRYDEN.

COLD winds and blights are often felt with us in the early days of May, a circumstance our northern bards, for the most part, have been too apt to overlook in their glowing and exaggerated descriptions of this favourite month. Milton, however, notices the 'frost to flowers what time the whitethorn blows;' and Shakspeare, in his Midsummer Night's Dream, has a beautiful passage to the same effect; though he fancifully attributes the season's rigour to the quarrels of Oberon and Titania:—Therefore, says he,

The hoary-headed frost
Falls in the fresh lap of the crimson rose.

Certain it is, that in our Northern climate that lovely flower waits [illegible] full strength of the year, and is only to be found in the Spring of Thomson's Seasons; and but too often may we say with the bard of Avon,

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date.

With us, the beauties of this month are rather those of infancy and promise; but there is a gladness and hope about it which marvellously delights; and our

hearts overflow with gratitude to the God of Seasons, who thus from silence and solitude 'renews the face of the earth.' Sometimes, indeed, we can join our Suffolk poet, and exclaim,

Delightful May!
Dispensing, ere she bid adieu,
More genial airs and skies more gay,
Than wakened April's changeful hue. B. BARTON.

To SPRING, which may now be said to lavish all its beauties on the admirer of Nature, we have offered many tributes; and our last year's Diary (pp. 142, 143) contains some poetical gems which will not suffer by repeated examination: of the many Parnassian Flowers, which, collected into monthly bouquets, disperse their fugitive odours, and are then doomed to a cheerless oblivion, we select one of great beauty, worthy to be classed with the other specimens in our calendar of Flora.

The VOICE *of* SPRING.

I come, I come, ye have called me long;
I come o'er the mountains with light and song!
Ye may trace my step o'er the wakening earth,
By the winds which tell of the violet's birth,
By the primrose stars in the shadowy grass,
By the green leaves opening as I pass.

I have breathed on the South and the chesnut flowers,
By thousands have burst from the forest bowers,
And the antient groves, and the fallen fanes,
Are veiled with wreaths on Italian plains;
—But it is not for me, in my hour of bloom,
To speak of the ruin on the tomb.

I have pass'd o'er the hills of the stormy north,
And the larch has hung all his tassels forth;
The fisher is out on the sunny sea,
And the reindeer bounds thro' the pasture free;
And the pine has a fringe of softer green,
And the moss looks bright where my step has been.

I have sent thro' the wood-paths a gentle sigh,
And called out each voice of the deep blue sky,
From the night bird's lay thro' the starry time,
In the graves of the soft Hesperian clime,
To the swan's wild note by the Iceland lakes,
When the dark fir bough with verdure breaks.

From the streams and founts I have loosed the chain,
They are sweeping on to the silvery main;
They are flashing down from the mountain-brows,
They are flinging spray on the forest boughs;
They are bursting fresh from their sparry caves,
And the earth resounds with the joy of waves.

Come forth, O ye children of gladness, come!
Where the violets lie may be now your home;
Ye of the rose-cheek and dew-bright eye,
And the bounding footstep, to meet me fly;
With the lyre and the wreath, and the joyous lay,
Come forth to the sunshine—I may not stay.

New Monthly Magazine.

The latest species of the summer birds of passage arrive about the beginning of May. Among these are the goatsucker, or fern-owl *(caprimulgus Europæus)*, the spotted fly-catcher *(muscicapa grisola)*, and the sedge-bird *(motacilla salicaria)*. In this and the following month, the *dotterel* is in season. Birds are now occupied in building their nests or laying their eggs. The parental care of birds at this period, in hatching and rearing their young, can never be sufficiently admired. How patiently the hen bird sits upon her nest; and that too, as Dr. Paley remarks, 'at a season when every thing invites her abroad; herself delighting in motion, made for motion, all whose motions are so easy and so free.'—'For my part,' he adds, 'I never see her in that situation, but I recognize an invisible hand detaining the contented bird from its fields and groves, for a purpose most worthy the sacrifice, the most important and beneficial." Harvey tells us he has found the female wasted to skin and bone by sitting on her eggs.—See our last volume, p. 149.

About the commencement of the month, the lily of the valley *(convallaria maialis)* opens 'her snowy bells:' fair, modest flower,

She nor affects
The public walk, nor gaze of mid-day sun,
She to no state nor dignity aspires,
But silent and alone puts on her suit,
And sheds her lasting perfume, but for which
We had not known there was a thing so sweet
Hid in the gloomy shade.

The flowers of the chesnut tree *(fagus castanea)* now begin to open; the tulip tree *(liriodendron tulipfera)* has its leaves quite out, and the flowers of the Scotch fir, the honeysuckle, the beech, and the oak, are in full bloom. The hawthorn *(white* and *pink)* is usually in blossom about the middle or end of the month. Ronsard, whom we have before quoted, has some pretty lines to the hawthorn, which are thus rendered by an ingenious writer in the *London Magazine* for June 1822:—

To the HAWTHORN.

Fair Hawthorn flowering,
With green shade bowering
Along this lovely shore;
To thy foot around
With his long arms wound,
A wild vine has mantled thee o'er.

In armies twain,
Red ants have ta'en
Their fortress beneath thy stock:
And, in clefts of thy trunk,
Tiny bees have sunk
A cell where their honey they lock.

In merry spring-tide,
When to woo his bride
The nightingale comes again;
Thy boughs among,
He warbles the song
That lightens a lover's pain.

'Mid thy topmost leaves,
His nest he weaves
Of moss and the satin fine,
Where his callow brood
Shall chirp at their food,
Secure from each hand but mine.

Gentle Hawthorn, thrive,
And for ever alive
Mayest thou blossom as now in thy prime;
By the wind unbroke,
And the thunderstroke,
Unspoiled by the axe or time.

All the varieties of the strawberry, 'plant of my native soil,' now open their blossoms, their runners extend-

ing on all sides: this power of extension is one of the faculties assigned by Nature to the vegetable world, as a substitute for the power of locomotion. By this gift, plants have a full compensation for being stationary, since, in whatever direction most nourishment is to be obtained, thither the roots proceed, and, to arrive at it, will pierce the hardest intervening soils; they have even been known to penetrate the foundation of walls, and overturn them. The mulberry-tree (*morus nigra*) puts forth its leaves. As this tree is in leaf in England generally after the silk-worm is hatched, the difficulty of obtaining it as food for this animal in the spring is evident.

The insect tribe continue to add to their numbers; among these may be named several kinds of moths and butterflies (*papilio atalanta, cardamines, ægeria, lathonia, &c.*) A few butterflies that have passed the inclement season in the chrysalis state, are seen on the wing, early in May; soon after which the female lays her eggs singly on the leaves of nettles.

Other insects now observed, are field crickets (*gryllus campestris*), the chafler or may-bug (*scarabæus melolontha*), and the forest-fly (*hippobosca equina*), which so much annoys horses and cattle. The female wasp (*vespa vulgaris*) appears at the latter end of the month, and the swarming of *bees* takes place.

The garden now affords rhubarb, green apricots, and green gooseberries, for making pies and tarts.

The orchis (*orchis mascula*) will now be found in moist pastures, distinguished by its broad black spotted leaves, and spike of large purple flowers. The walnut (*juglans regia*) has its flowers in full bloom.

The banks of rills and shaded hedges are ornamented with the petty tribe of speedwells, particularly the germander speedwell (*veronica chamædrys*), the field mouse-ear (*myosotis arvensis*), the dove's-foot crane's-bill (*geranium molle*), and the red campion (*lychnis dioica*); the first two of azure blue, and the last two of rose colour, intermixing their flowers with attractive variety.

The lilac (*syringa vulgaris*), the barberry (*berberis vulgaris*), and the maple (*acer campestre*), are now in flower. At the latter end of the month, rye (*secale hybernum*) is in ear; the mountain ash (*sorbus aucuparia*), laburnum (*cytisus laburnum*), the guelder rose (*viburnum opulus*), clover (*trifolium pratense*), columbines (*aquilegia vulgaris*), with their singular and fantastic nectaries, the alder (*rhamnus frangula*), the wild chervil (*chœrophyllium temulum*), the wayfaring tree, or wild guelder-rose, and the *elm*, have their flowers full blown. Our Huntingdonshire correspondent informs us, that the flower of the elms in his neighbourhood, in the spring of 1823, was particularly luxuriant, and the subsequent show of hops so much so, that the trees at a distance, in the end of the month of May and beginning of June, had a light brown hue. Some distant woods looked as if it were the beginning of autumn with their varied foliage. There has been a proportionate failure of *leaves* on these trees, and they seem as if they would not recover it, at least not this summer (1823).

The various species of meadow grass are now in flower. The buttercup (*ranunculus bulbosus*) spreads over the meadows; the cole-seed (*brassica napus*) in corn fields, bryony (*brionia dioica*), the arum or cuckoo-pint, in hedges, the Tartarian honeysuckle (*lonicera tartarica*), and the *corchorus Japonica*, now show their flowers. The flowers of the *garden rose* begin to open.

SPRING SONG.

ROSE! ROSE! open thy leaves!
Spring is whispering love to thee.
ROSE! ROSE! open thy leaves!
Near is the nightingale on the tree.
Open thy leaves,
Open thy leaves,
And fill with balm-breath the ripening eves.

LILY! LILY! awake, awake!
The fairy wanteth her flowery boat:

LILY! LILY! awake, awake!
Oh! set thy sweet-laden bark afloat.
LILY, awake!
LILY, awake!
And cover with leaves the sleeping lake.

FLOWERS! FLOWERS! come forth! 'tis Spring!
Stars of the woods, the hills, and dells!
Fair valley-lilies, come forth and ring
In your green turrets your silvery bells!
FLOWERS, come forth!
'Tis Spring! come forth!

London Magazine.

The country is now in its perfection—every bush a nosegay, all the ground a piece of embroidery; on each tree the voice of melody, in every grove a concert of warbling music. The air is enriched with native perfumes, and the whole creation seems to smile. Flowers! (exclaims a modern poet) what hundreds of associations the word brings to my mind! Of what countless songs—sweet and sacred—delicate and divine, are they the subject! A flower in England, though it attracts the curiosity of the botanist, and calls forth the admiration of the florist—though the poet and the moralist bend down to its eloquent silence—yet the peasant never utters to it an ejaculation—the ploughman (all but one) carelessly roots it up with his share—no maiden thinks of wreathing it—no youth aspires to wear it. But, in Spain, a flower becomes a minister of love—hears the voice of poetry—and crowns the brow of beauty. In the Peninsula the wildest flowers are the sw[illegible]est. There are hedges of myrtles, and gerani[illegible], and pomegranates, and towering aloes.

Many and many are the strains hung upon this beautiful and antique verse, '*Aprended flores de mi.*' Calderon has introduced Catherine of Arragon singing the mournful strain; and Gongora has thus amplified it:—

Aprended flores de mi
lo que va de ayer á hoy
que ayer maravilla fui
y hoy sombra mia aun no soy.

La aurora ayer me dió cuna
la noche ataud me dió
sin luz muriera, sinó
me la prestara la luna:
pues de vosotras ninguna
¡ deja de morir asi:
aprended flores de mi!

Consuelo dulce el clavel
es á la brevedad mia
pues quien me concedió un dia
dos apenas le diò à él
efimeras de un vergel
¡ yo cardena, él carmesi
aprended flores de mi!

Flor es el jazmin y bella
no de las mas vividoras
pues vive pocas mas horas
que rayos tiene de estrella
si el ambar florece es ella
la flor que contiene en si:
¡ aprended flores de mi!

El aleli aunque grosero
en fragrancia y en olor
mas dias ve que otro flor
pues ve los de Mayo entero
morir maravilla quiero
y no vivir alheli:
¡ aprended flores de mi!

GONGORA.

Thus translated in the London Magazine for June 1823:—

The Song *of* Catherine *of* Arragon.

O take a lesson, flowers! from me,
How in a dawn all charms decay—
Less than a shadow doomed to be,
Who was a wonder yesterday.

I, with the early twilight born,
Found, ere the evening shades, a bier;
And I should die in darkness lorn,
But that the Moon is shining here.
So must ye die—though ye appear
So fair—and night your curtain be:
O take a lesson, flowers! from me.

My fleeting being was consoled
When the carnation met my view:
One hurrying day my doom has told—
Heaven gave that lovely flower but two.
Ephemeral monarch of the wold—
I clad in gloom—in scarlet he:
O take a lesson, flowers! from me.

The jasmine, sweetest flower of flowers,
The soonest is its radiance fled;
It scarce perfumes as many hours
As there are star-beams round its head.
If living amber fragrance shed,
The jasmine, sure, its shrine must be:
O take a lesson, flowers! from me.

The bloody-warrior fragrance gives—
It towers unblushing, proud, and gay:

More days than other flowers it lives—
It blooms through all the days of May.
I'd rather like a shade decay,
Than such a gaudy being be:
O take a lesson, flowers! from me.

The principal show of *tulips* takes place in this month. Towards the middle of the 17th century, the culture of tulips was more ardently pursued in Holland than at present. What has been called the *Tulipomania* then reigned; but many ridiculous stories have been told of the extravagant prices paid for tulip roots; for the mania did not, we believe, so much consist in giving large sums for established variegated tulips, as in a kind of betting, regarding the eventual superiority of promising seedling flowers, and in a ruinous competition for the possession of bulbs of high merit, from which fine seedlings might be expected. The early-flowering *spring tulips* (such as Duke von Thol), when they first came into vogue, and while they continued scarce, were frequently rated at ideal values; and the anxiety of the amateur florists to excel, frequently, in the midst of such temptations, became the means of involving them in bankruptcy. The greatest rarities were sometimes disposed of by a kind of raffle. At length, the interference of the Dutch government was thought necessary, to restrain this gambling spirit of the votaries of Flora. But those days have passed away. There is, certainly, at this time, 'no sumptuary law limiting the price of tulip roots,' nor is there any longer the slightest danger of 'twelve acres of land,' as one author says, or '£5,000 sterling,' as another repeats, being given for a single tulip. The general price of choice bulbs now varies from three to ten guilders (the guilder 1s. 8d.); a few kinds are valued at from ten to twenty guilders; and the most select new, and consequently rare varieties, seldom fetch more than from twenty to fifty guilders. Among the most precious, at this time, are the Universal Con-

queror, Pompe funebre, and Charbonnier noir, with yellow grounds; Louis xvi, and Toilette superieure, with white grounds; and the price of these is one hundred guilders (£8..2s..6d. a bulb).—See the *Horticultural Tour in Flanders, &c.*

Young *hares*, or leverets, in favourable seasons, are now seen feeding near the edges of woods and copses; these may be considered as the first produce of the year, but the mother will commonly bring forth two or more pairs in the season: notwithstanding this fertility, and the fine sense of hearing that these creatures are endowed with, it is surprising how any of the race remain, excepting in preserves, as no animal seems to be so unremittingly persecuted as the poor hare, at every period of its life. When young, owls, buzzards, and cats, seize it; the fox, polecat, and weasel, pursue it; and, escaping these, man seeks its life by snares, traps, guns, and dogs: he traces it in the snow, and every gateway and path betrays its footsteps. But, to escape annihilation, Nature has given it great swiftness of foot, and very acute powers of hearing: its long and flexible ears are moveable in every direction, and formed to receive any sound the air may convey; they erect them to notice a distant noise, and, should any suspicious object be in sight, they drop them on the neck, and survey it. When pursued, they listen behind, and look before: they move on their feet with great circumspection, frequently stopping to listen: if no danger be apprehended, they limp on their way again. The hare, like many timid animals (both birds and beasts), depends much upon the sense of hearing for information and safety, and may almost be said to see with her ears; yet

> Vain is her best precaution; tho' she sits
> Concealed, with folding ears; unsleeping eyes,
> By nature raised to take th' horizon in;
> And head couched close betwixt her hairy feet,
> In act to spring away:—the scented dew
> Betrays her early labyrinth.

This little animal, though so innocent in its own nature, has, we believe (the horse excepted), occasioned more litigation, expatriation, and ill-will among mankind, than any other we possess; nor can the terrors of the gamekeeper—the danger of spring-guns and steel-traps—penalty—imprisonment—or banishment, prevent its being sought for and captured!

Towards the end of May the *phalæna humuli* makes its appearance, and continues visible during the greater part of the month of June. The singular habits of this creature render it distinguishable from every other moth. In the cool of the evening this insect arises from the place of its retirement, and commences a most irregular flight, a few feet or inches from the earth, in some grassy pasture or humid meadow, where it continues rising and falling, flying sideways, and balancing itself in many eccentric ways, for hours together, in a space commonly not exceeding a few inches in circumference: these actions, a kind of silent serenade, are peculiar to the male insect, and always indicate the presence of its mate. From this spectre-like, twilight flight, it has received the name of the 'ghost moth.'

The female glow-worm (*lampyris noctiluca*) is now seen on dry banks, about woods, pastures, and hedgeways.

In June, plants are removed from the conservatory, the greenhouse, and the vestibule, to acquire new health and vigour from the fresh air, the dew, and the rain. As this is the season when flowers are plucked from their parent stems, to wither by degrees as bouquets on side-boards and mantle-pieces, it may not be unacceptable to our readers to state, that it is asserted that they will much longer retain their vigour and fragrance, if a small portion of common salt (six grains to a pint) be added to the water, and a small portion of the stalk be cut off at intervals of three or four days.

JUNE.

Remarkable Days

In JUNE 1824.

1.—NICOMEDE.

NICOMEDE was a pupil of St. Peter, and was discovered to be a Christian by his burying Felicula, a martyr, in a very honourable manner. He was beaten to death with leaden plummets, on account of his religion, in the reign of Domitian.

5.—SAINT BONIFACE.

Boniface was a Saxon presbyter, born in England, and at first called Winfrid. He was sent as a missionary, by Pope Gregory II, into Germany, where he made so many converts, that he was distinguished by the title of the *German Apostle*. He was created Bishop of Mentz in the year 145. Boniface was one of the first priests of his day, and was also a great friend and admirer of the Venerable Bede. He was murdered in a barbarous manner by the populace near Utrecht, while preaching the Christian religion.

6.—WHIT-SUNDAY.

On Whit-Sunday, or *White-Sunday*, the *catechumens*, who were then baptized, as well as those who had been baptized before at Easter, appeared, in the antient church, in *white garments*. The celebration of divine service in St. Peter's church at Rome, on Whit-Sunday, is described in T. T. for 1815, p. 165.

7.—WHIT-MONDAY.

This day and Whit-Tuesday are observed as festivals, for the same reason as Monday and Tuesday in Easter. Their religious character, however, is almost obsolete, and they are now kept as holidays, in which the lower classes still pursue their favourite diversions. For an account of the Eton *Montem*, see T. T. for 1815, p. 168.

At Kidlington in Oxfordshire, on Monday after Whitsun-week, a fat lamb is provided; and the young women in the town, having their thumbs tied behind them, run after it; and she that with her mouth takes and holds the lamb, is called '*Lady of the Lamb*.'—See T.T. for 1814, p. 120; and an account of Whitsun-ales at p. 119 of the same volume.

9, 11, 12.—EMBER DAYS. *See* p. 66.

11.—SAINT BARNABAS.

Our saint's proper name was *Joses*; he was descended of the tribe of Levi, and born at Cyprus. His parents being rich, had him educated at Jerusalem, under the care of Gamaliel, a learned Jew; and, after his conversion, he preached the Gospel with Paul, in various countries, for fourteen years. Barnabas suffered martyrdom at Salamis, in his native island:—being shut up all night in the synagogue by some Jews, he was, the next morning, cruelly tortured, and afterwards stoned to death. The *Epistle* which he wrote is considered genuine, though not admitted into the canon of the church.

13.—TRINITY SUNDAY.

Stephen, Bishop of Liege, first drew up an office in commemoration of the Holy Trinity, about the year 920; but the festival was not formally admitted into the Romish church till the fourteenth century, under the *pontificate* of John XXII.

*13. 1823.—ROBERT BOWMAN DIED, ÆT. 113!

He was born at Bridgewood Foot near Irthington, in Cumberland. From early youth he had been a laborious worker, and was at all times healthy and strong, having never taken medicine nor been visited with any kind of illness, except the measles when a child, and the hooping-cough when he was above one hundred years of age. During the course of his long life he was only once intoxicated, which was at a wedding, and he never used tea or coffee; his prin-

cipal food having been bread, potatoes, hasty-pudding, broth, and occasionally a little flesh meat. He scarcely ever tasted ale or spirits, his chief beverage being water, or milk and water mixed: this abstemiousness arose partly from a dislike to strong liquors, but more from a saving disposition. With these views his habits of industry and disregard of personal fatigue were extraordinary; having often been up for two or three nights in a week, particularly when bringing home coals or lime. In his younger days he was rather robust, excellent in bodily strength, and was considered a master in the art of wrestling—an exercise to which he was particularly attached. He was of a low stature, being not above five feet five inches in height, with a large chest, well proportioned limbs, and weighing about twelve stone. His vigour never forsook him till far advanced in life, for in his 108th year he walked to and from Carlisle (16 miles) without the help of a staff, to see the workmen lay the foundation of Eden-bridge. In the same year he actually reaped corn, made hay, worked at hedging, and assisted in all the labours of the field, with apparently as much energy as the stoutest of his sons. As might be expected, his education was very limited; but he possessed a considerable share of natural sense, with much self-denial; and passed a life of great regularity and prudence, without troubling himself by much thought or reflection. His memory was very tenacious.

17.—CORPUS CHRISTI.

This festival, 'the body of Christ,' was appointed in honour of the Eucharist, and always falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. It is called the *Fête Dieu*, or Corpus Christi, and is one of the most remarkable festivals of the Romish church, beginning on Trinity Sunday, and ending on the Sunday following.—See T. T. for 1818, p. 117.

In Catholic countries, this is the only day in the year when the *consecrated Host* is exposed in the

streets of the different cities and towns to the gaze of the adoring multitude. In *Seville* the following procession and observances take place:—At a short distance in front of the procession appear a group of seven gigantic figures, male and female, whose dresses, contrived by the most skilful tailors and milliners of the town, regulate the fashion at Seville for the ensuing season. A strong man being concealed under each of the giants and giantesses, they amuse the gaping multitude, at certain intervals, with a very clumsy dance performed to the sound of the pipe and tabor. Next to the Brobdignag dancers, and taking precedence of all, follows, on a moveable stage, the figure of a Hydra encircling a castle, from which, to the great delight of all the children at Seville, a puppet not unlike Punch, dressed up in a scarlet jacket trimmed with morrice-bells, starts up, and having performed a kind of wild dance, vanishes again from view into the body of the monster. That these figures are allegorical no one can doubt who has any knowledge of the pageants of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It would be difficult, however, without the help of an obscure tradition, to guess that the giants in periwigs and swords, and their fair partners in caps and petticoats, were emblems of the seven deadly sins. The Hydra, it should seem, represents Heresy, guarding the castle of Schism, where Folly, symbolized by the strange figure in scarlet, displays her supreme command. This band of monsters was supposed to be flying in confusion before the triumphant sacrament.

Mixed with the body of the procession there are three sets of dancers; the *Valencianos*, or natives of the kingdom of Valencia, who, in their national costume of loose waistcoats, puffed linen sleeves, bound at the wrists and elbows with ribbons of various colours, and broad white trowsers reaching only to the knees, perform a lively dance, mingling their steps with feats of surprising agility; after these fol-

low the sword-dancers in the old martial fashion of the country; and last of all, the performers of an antiquated Spanish dance, the *Chacona*, dressed in the national garb of the sixteenth century.

A dance of the last-mentioned description, and in a similar costume, is still performed before the high altar in the presence of the chapter, at the conclusion of the service on this day and the following se'nnight. The dancers are boys of between ten and fourteen, who, under the name of *seizes*, are maintained at the college which the cathedral supports for the education of the acolytes, or inferior ministers. These boys, accompanied by a full orchestra, sing a lyric composition in Spanish, which, like the Greek choruses, consists of two or three systems of metres, to which the dancers move solemnly, going through a variety of figures, in their natural step, till, ranged at the conclusion of the song, in two lines facing each other as at the outset, they end with a gentle capriole, rattling their castanets, which hitherto lay silent and concealed, in their hands.

The *Corpus Christi* procession begins to move out of the cathedral exactly at nine in the morning. It consists in the first place of the forty communities of friars who have convents in Seville. They follow one another in two lines, according to the established order of precedence. The strangeness and variety of their dresses, no less than their collective numbers, would greatly strike any one but a Spaniard, to whom such objects are perfectly familiar. Next appears the long train of relics belonging to the cathedral, placed each by itself on a small stage moved by one or more men concealed under the rich drapery which hangs on its sides to the ground. Vases of gold and silver, of different shapes and sizes, contain the various portions of the inestimable treasure, whereof the following is an accurate catalogue:—

A tooth of Saint Christopher.
An agate cup used at Mass by Pope Saint Clement, the immediate successor of Saint Peter.
An arm of Saint Bartholomew.
A head of one of the eleven thousand virgins.
Part of Saint Peter's body.
Ditto of Saint Lawrence.
Ditto of Saint Blaise.
The bones of the Saints Servandus and Germanus.
Ditto of Saint Flovintius.
The Alphonsine tables, left to the Cathedral by King Alphonso the Wise, containing three hundred relics.
A silver bust of Saint Leander, with his bones.
A thorn from our Saviour's crown.
A fragment of the true Cross.

Last of all appears the body of prebendaries and canons, attended by their inferior ministers. Such, however, is the length of the procession, and the slow and solemn pace at which it proceeds, that, without a break in the lines, it takes a whole hour to leave the church. The streets, besides being ornamented with more taste than for the procession of the Passion Week, are shaded all the way with a thick awning, and the pavement is strewed with rushes. An article of the military code of Spain obliges whatever troops are quartered in a town where this procession takes place to follow it under arms, and, if sufficient in number, to line the streets through which it is to pass.

Under all these circumstances, the first appearance of the host in the streets is exceedingly imposing. Encircled by jewels of the greatest brilliancy, surrounded by lighted tapers, and enthroned on the massive, yet elegant temple of silver, already mentioned when describing the *monument*[1], no sooner has it moved to the door of the church than the bells announce its presence with a deafening sound; the bands of military music mix their animating notes with the solemn hymns of the singers, clouds of in-

[1] See an account of Thursday in Passion Week, p. 96.

cense rise before the moving shrine, and the ear is thrilled by the loud voice of command, and the clash of the arms which the kneeling soldiers strike down to the ground. When the concealed bearers of the shrine present it at the top of the long street where the route commences, the multitudes which crowd both the pavement and windows fall prostrate in profound adoration, without venturing to rise up till the object of their awe is out of sight. Flowers are often scattered from the windows, and the most beautiful nosegays adorn the platform of the moveable stage.

Close behind the host follows the archbishop, surrounded by his ecclesiastical retinue: one of his chaplains carries a large double cross of silver, indicative of metropolitan dignity. The train of the purple mantle is supported by another clergyman. These, like the rest of the prelate's attendants and pages, are young men of family, who disdain not this kind of service, in the expectation of high church preferment. But what gives all this state the most unexpected finish is an inferior minister in his surplice bearing a circular fan of richly embroidered silk about two feet in diameter, and attached to a silver rod six feet in length. At a convenient distance from the archbishop this fan is constantly waved, whenever, during the summer months, he attends the cathedral service, thus relieving him from the oppressive effects of his robes under the burning sun of Andalusia; a custom peculiar to Seville.—*(Doblado's Letters on Spain*, p. 303.)

17.—SAINT ALBAN.

St. Alban, the first Christian martyr in this island, suffered in 303. He was converted to Christianity by Amphialus, a priest of Caerleon in Monmouthshire, who, flying from persecution, was hospitably entertained by St. Alban, at Verulam, in Hertfordshire, now called, from him, St. Alban's. Amphialus being closely pursued, made his escape, dressed in

St. Alban's clothes. This, however, being soon discovered, exposed St. Alban to the fury of the Pagans; and our saint refusing to perform the sacrifice to their gods, was first miserably tortured, and then put to death.

Lament! for Diocletian's fiery sword
Works busy as the lightning; but instinct
With malice no'er to deadliest weapon linked,
Which God's ethereal storehouses afford
Against the followers of th' incarnate LORD
It rages;—some are smitten in the field—
Some pierced beneath the unavailing shield
Of sacred home;—with pomp are others gored
And dreadful respite. Thus was ALBAN tried,
England's first martyr! whom no threats could shake,
Self-offered victim, for his friend he died,
And for the faith—nor shall his name forsake
That hill, whose flowery platform seems to rise
By Nature decked for holiest sacrifice. WORDSWORTH.

*18. 1815.—BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

A winged goddess, clothed in vesture wrought
Of rainbow colours; one whose port was bold,
Whose overburthened hand could scarcely hold
The glittering crowns and garlands which it brought,
Hovered in air above the far-famed spot.
She vanished—All was joyless, blank, and cold;
But if from wind-swept fields of corn that rolled
In dreary billows, from the meagre cot,
And monuments that soon may disappear,
Meanings we craved which could not there be found,
If the wide prospect seemed an envious seal
Of great exploits; we felt as men *should* feel,
With such vast hoards of hidden carnage near,
And horror breathing from the silent ground!

WORDSWORTH.

*19. 1823.—WILLIAM COOMBE DIED, ÆT. 82.

He originally excited great attention in the fashionable world by a poem entitled *The Diaboliad*, the hero of which was generally understood to be a nobleman lately deceased. 'The Tour of Dr. Syntax in Search of the Picturesque,' 'The English Dance of Death,' and 'The Dance of Life,' 'The History of Johnny Quæ Genus,' 'The Little Found-

ling of the late Dr. Syntax,' (all illustrated from the designs of Mr. Rowlandson) were among his latest and most popular productions. He also wrote the History of England, in Letters from a nobleman to his son, and attributed to the late Lord Lyttleton. He was a contributor to 'Mr. Ackermann's Repository of Arts' from its commencement, and some of the best written and most amusing essays are from his pen.

20.—TRANSLATION OF EDWARD, *King of the West Saxons.*

Edward being barbarously murdered by his mother-in-law, was first buried at Warham, without any solemnity; but after three years, was carried by Duke Alferus to the minster of Shrewsbury, and there interred with great pomp.

21.—LONGEST DAY.

This day is, in London, 16 h. 34 m. 5s., allowing 9 m. 16s. for refraction.—For a beautiful version of a *Canzone* by Tasso, on TIME, see our last volume, p. 161.

> Alas! how transient is the vernal hour,
> When mortal bliss expands its tender flower!
> Scarce open to the light, its glory flies—
> It trembles on the stalk, fades, drops, and dies!
> Poor fragile being of a sunny day!
> What shall I say thou art?—a breath?—a span?
> Still, still too much! a fleeting shadow? nay,
> Dream of a fleeting shadow: SUCH IS MAN!
>
> PINDAR, *Pyth.* viii, 131, by *Gifford.*

24.—SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST *and* MIDSUMMER DAY.

The nativity of St. John the Baptist is celebrated by the Christian church on this day, because he was the *Forerunner* of our blessed Lord, and, by preaching the doctrine of repentance, prepared the way for the gospel. He was imprisoned by Herod for preaching against his marriage with his brother's wife, and was afterwards beheaded by the arts of that enraged woman.

A curious provincial custom on this day, in *Lower*

Saxony, is noticed in T.T. for 1823, p. 163; and a 'new method of paying rent,' at p. 164.

The populace of Madrid are accustomed to saunter about the fields on the eve of this day, '*cogér la verbena*,' to gather vervain; from a superstitious notion, that this plant possesses preternatural powers, when gathered at twelve o'clock on St. John's Eve. —See also T.T. for 1821, p. 172.

Among the higher classes a kind of *al fresco* masquerade takes place, for an account of which we must refer to *Doblado's Letters*, pp. 309-311.

The author of 'Letters on Poland' affords an interesting notice of the observance of Midsummer Eve in that country. On St. John's Night, at the summer solstice (he observes), you will see in all the Sclavonian countries, in some more numerous than others, large *fires* burning in the fields, or on the banks of rivers. This custom seems to point to the worship of the Sun, common to the eastern nations, and brought by antient Sclavonians to their present settlements. These bonfires are kindled with what is called a pure and holy fire, elicited by rubbing pieces of dry wood on one another. The youth dance around and leap over its blazing flames; the village maidens kindle at it their wax tapers, which they send, entwined with floating wreaths of wild flowers, down the current of the streams. From the rapidity or slowness of their progress, they predict for themselves the speedier or later fulfilment of their wishes. On the same occasion, they are in the habit of singing old songs, some of them so antiquated, that their meaning has been lost in the progress of ages; but the very mysteriousness of the words heightens the relish which they reveal from their anxious bosoms. Before the sun-set of a fine autumn day, you will see a crowd of both sexes, old and young, approaching to the *White Hall* (the dwelling of a landlord) with solemn song and rural music; they are the reapers, and come to celebrate with joy

the festival of harvest home: at the head of this crowd proceed two virgins, the reigning beauties of the village—their heads crowned with wreaths of ears of corn, the one of wheat, the other of rye, both interwoven with a great variety of flowers. In front of the White Hall, they offer to their landlord and landlady these symbols of the wealth of the fruitful soil, and pronounce a blessing appropriate to the occasion. To this act succeeds a national circle dance. The landlord leads the dance with one of the rustic Floras; the guests and peasants follow: and thus in mirth and jollity, 'true to their rural chieftain, heart and hand,' they drink, sing, and dance away, the whole night—the starry blue heavens over their heads, the green turf under their feet.

Sometimes, in the midnight darkness, you may espy the virgins stealing to hallowed fountains. There you will, perchance, hear the plaintive music of an antient song, chaunted in a low, whispering, tremulous voice, but yet too loud to be unheard through the elastic air of the dewy night. You will perceive the fair musicians holding converse with the murmuring waters, and sighing to them the secret wishes of their hearts; asking counsel, and then returning consoled—believing that thus they have removed the dark veil of futurity.

At the great festival of fire celebrated in Persia, and called the *'Sheb Seze,'* the populace were accustomed to set fire to large bunches of dry combustibles, fastened round wild beasts and birds; which being then let loose, the air and earth appeared one great illumination; and as these terrified creatures naturally fled to the wood for shelter, it is easy to conceive the conflagrations they produced;—an instance of refined barbarity, worthy of idolaters.

The *nucta,* or miraculous drop, which is said to fall in Egypt precisely on St. John's-day in June, and is supposed to have the effect of stopping the plague, is thus alluded to by the author of *Lalla Rookh*:—

There's a drop, said the Peri, that down from the Moon
Falls through the withering airs of June
Upon Egypt's land, of so healing a power,
So balmy a virtue, that ev'n in the hour
That drop descends, contagion dies,
And health re-animates earth and skies!

29.—SAINT PETER.

Peter's original name, Simon, was not abolished by Christ, but that of *Cephas* was added to it, which in Syriac, the vulgar language of the Jews, signifies a stone or rock; hence the Greek Πέτρος, and our *Peter*. The apostle's father was Jonah, probably a fisherman of Bethsaida. His brother Andrew, being first converted, was said to be an instrument of Peter's conversion, *John* i, 40, 41. St. Peter lived at Capernaum: he was a married man, and his wife's mother lived with them. Christ seems to have frequently lodged or sojourned at his house.—See *Luke* iv, 31-38, and Bp. Hall's Contemplation on the Tribute Money.

Among the most brilliant spectacles ever witnessed in modern times, may be placed the splendid *illumination of St. Peter's Church*, and the magnificent *girandola*, or fire-works, from the Castle of St. Angelo, at Rome, annually exhibited on this day. See our last volume, pp. 165-168.

*30. 1823.—OCTAVIUS GRAHAM GILCHRIST DIED.

Mr. Gilchrist was originally intended for the church, and with that view was entered of Magdalen College, Oxford; but after a residence of two years he quitted it for a lucrative business, which was left him by his uncle. This made no change, however, in his character: he added high literary acquirements to a mind unusually vigorous and discriminating, and became the author of several interesting publications; among which his Vindications of Ben Jonson and of Pope will not soon be forgotten. He was one of the earliest contributors to the *London Magazine*, and an occasional writer in the Quarterly Review.

Astronomical Occurrences

In JUNE 1824.

Watch with nice eye the Earth's diurnal way,
Marking her solar and sidereal day;
Her slow nutation; and her varying clime,
And trace, with mimic art, the march of *Time*.

DARWIN.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Cancer at 1 o'clock in the afternoon of the 21st of this month. This luminary will also be eclipsed on the 26th; but the eclipse will not be visible in this country. He rises and sets, during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

June 1st,	Sun rises	53	m. after	3.	Sets	7	m. past 8
6th,	.....	49	.....	3	.....	11	 8
11th,	.....	46	.....	3	.....	14	 8
16th,	.....	44	.....	3	.....	16	 8
21st,	.....	43	.....	3	.....	17	 8
26th,	.....	43	.....	3	.....	17	 8

Equation of Time.

To find the true or mean time from the apparent the correction must be used as directed in the following

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

		m.	s.
Tuesday, June 1st,	from the time by the dial *subt.*	2	33
Sunday, ... 6th,	.....	1	44
Friday, ... 11th,	.....	0	47
Wednesday, 16th,	to the time by the dial *add*	0	15
Monday, ... 21st,	.....	1	19
Saturday, ... 26th,	.....	2	24

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	4th day, at	9	m. after	9	in the morning
Full Moon, ...	11th, ...	38	.....	2	in the afternoon
Last Quarter,	19th, ...	21	.....	5	.....
New Moon, ...	26th, ...	39	.....	11	at night.

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following are such of the Moon's transits during this month, as afford the most favourable opportunities for observation, should the weather be clear at the respective periods; viz.

June	4th, at	21 m. past	6 in the evening
	5th, ...	10	7 .....
	6th, ...	58	7 .....
	7th, ...	46	8 .....
	8th, ...	40	9 .....
	9th, ...	33	10 at night
	10th, ...	27	11 .....
	16th, ...	31	3 in the morning
	17th, ...	13	4 .....
	18th, ...	58	4 .....
	19th, ...	34	5 .....
	20th, ...	15	6 .....
	21st, ...	58	6 .....
	22d, ...	44	7 .....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

June 1st, { Illuminated part 11·54461
Dark part..... 0·45539

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Jupiter is too near the Sun this month to allow any of these phenomena to be visible.

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
	TRANSITS.				
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	0 14 *aft.*	11 36 *mor.*	11 4	10 41	10 29
Venus	10 55 *mor.*	10 0	11 6	11 12	11 19
Mars	7 17 *even.*	7 0	6 42	6 26	6 10
Jupiter	2 20 *aft.*	2 0	1 41	1 22	1 3
Saturn	11 13 *mor.*	10 51	10 29	10 7	9 45
G. Sidus	2 30 *mor.*	2 0	1 34	1 9	0 43
	MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.				
Mercury	58°50′	57° 1′	56° 1′	56° 8′	57°14′
Venus	56 33	58 21	59 50	60 59	61 44
Mars	38 39	38 45	37 46	37 22	36 34
Jupiter	61 30	61 23	61 15	61 6	60 56
Saturn	56 40	56 50	56 59	57 8	57 16
G. Sidus	15 28	15 27	15 25	15 24	15 22

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

June 13th,	with G. Sidus at	0 m. past	2	in the afternoon
26th,	..... Venus	42	7	in the morning
27th,	..... ♄ in Gemini	0	6	in the evening
27th,	..... Jupiter	4	10	.....

Mercury will be in his inferior conjunction at 11 in the morning of the 3d of this month. Venus and Saturn will be in conjunction at 40 m. after 6 in the morning of the 6th. Jupiter will also be in conjunction with ♄ in Gemini at 11 in the morning of the 15th. Mercury will be stationary on the same day, and will attain his greatest elongation on the 28th.

Now comes Summer! his face embrowned with labour, and glowing with brightness. His head crowned with the diadem of majesty—a wreath of the fiercest sun-beams. He cries aloud, in the voice of his own thunder, 'What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, and call upon thy God.' Who does not, at this period, admire all Nature teeming with life, and replete with energy? Or, who that has a soul at all in unison with beneficence, or affected by beauty and truth, would not join with the poet in the following apostrophe to that orb, which is the source of all this life, energy, and glory?

In wonder risest thou, material orb!
And youthfulness—a symbol and a sign:
Change, revolution, age, decay, absorb
All other essences, but harm not thine:
In thy most awful face reflected shine
Thy mother's attributes, Celestial Child!
When shapelessness ruled chaos, the Divine
Looked on the void tumultuous mass, and smiled—
Then startedst thou to birth, and trod'st the pathless wild.

Girt like a giant for the speed, the flight,
The toil of unsummed ages; in thy zone,
Charmed into motion by thy sacred light,
The glad Earth danced around thee with the tone

Of music—for then Eden was her own,
And all things breathed of beauty—chiefly Man
Drank of an angel's joy: where are ye flown,
Too fleeting suns? a mortal's thought may span
Your course—for ye returned to whence your race began.

WIFFEN'S *Aonian Hours.*

REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS.

[Continued from p. 122.]

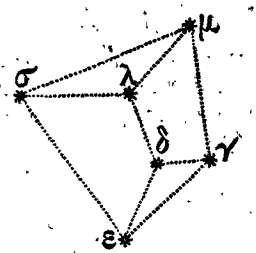
SAGITTARIUS (♐), *the Archer.*

Sagittarius is the ninth sign of the zodiac, the last of the autumnal, and the third of the southern signs, which the Sun enters on the 22d of November. Relative to the origin of this sign, Dr. Jamieson observes, 'According to Grecian fable, Sagittarius is Chiron, one of the centaurs, and son of Saturn and Philyra. But in the antient zodiacs of Egypt, Dendera, Esné, India, &c. Sagittarius is represented as the Greeks have copied him. And if we allow that a man on horseback first gave the idea of a centaur, we may easily admit that a huntsman, in the chase in autumn, first occupied the place among the constellations, which is now held by Sagittarius. In fact, Sagittarius, Bootes, and Orion, were denominated hunters among the constellations; and the hunter *Adonis* was the god of the Zidonians, who seem to have called their city Zidon, "the hunter," after their god. This Arcitenens, or Sagittarius, is, by the Greeks, also fabled to have been originally a famous hunter of the name of Crotus: but it avails little to tell us that Crotus could only have been placed in the zodiac by the same people who invented the symbol of the sea god. It will be seen, in the description of Capricornus, that the Greeks can have no pretensions to that symbol, and therefore none to the invention of Sagittarius.'

Sagittarius is bounded on the east by Capricornus, and on the west by Scorpio. On the north it borders upon two, and on the south upon three other signs. It contains sixty-nine stars, among which there are five of the 3d and nine of the 4th magnitude. One of the most conspicuous stars in this sign is δ, situated near the middle of the bow, and rises, at London, on the south-east by south ¼ east point of the horizon. Its declination at the commencement of this year (1824), is 29° 54′ 30″ south; its right ascension is 272° 25′ 6″, and its meridian altitude 8° 35′ 30″. The same star also rose and culminated, in 1820, as follows:—

	Rose.		Culminated.			Rose.		Culminated.	
	h. m.		h. m.			h. m.		h. m.	
January	8 30	*mor.*	11 25	*mor.*	July.....	8 32	*aft.*	11 25	*aft.*
February	6 18	.....	9 10	.....	August.	6 40	.....	9 30	.....
March...	4 25	.....	7 20	.....	Sept.....	4 35	.....	7 30	.....
April.....	2 35	.....	5 25	.....	October	2 50	.....	5 40	.....
May.....	0 45	*aft.*	3 35	.....	Novemb.	0 54	*mor.*	3 50	.....
June.....	10 30	.....	1 20	.....	Decemb.	10 47	.....	1 45	.....

The head of Sagittarius is on the ecliptic, near the south-east side of the milky way, in a bright part of which the bow is situated. This bow may be readily distinguished by the stars μ, λ, δ, and ϵ, which are all of the 3d magnitude. The point of the arrow is also known by γ, and its feathered end by σ. These stars being joined, will form the following figure:—



When Sagittarius rises, Corona Borealis is about 20° south of the zenith, Pegasus is rising on the

north-east, Aquarius and Capricornus are rising in the east, Gemini is setting in the north-west, Perseus is in the north, Lyra is between the zenith and the east, and Arcturus and Spica Virginis between the zenith and south-west.

'When Sagittarius comes to the meridian between the middle of December and the middle of January, Lyra occupies the zenith, Aries rises in the east, Virgo declines in the west, and Lynx appears in the north.

'When δ Sagittarius comes to the western horizon Castor in Gemini begins to rise in the north-east by north point of the compass; Lacerta is in the zenith, the hunters are on the north by west ½ north point of the compass, Dubhe being midway between the horizon and the pole; Aquarius is then on the meridian, Piscis Australes on the south point of the compass, the brilliant Fomalhaut being south by east, 8 degrees above the horizon; Taurus is in the east, Aldebaran being east by north, 8° elevation; Arcturus is setting, and Lyra is between the zenith and the west.'

[To be continued.]

The Naturalist's Diary

For JUNE 1824.

The clouds were dispersed, and the tempest was o'er,
The crimson of evening illumined the sky,
And the soft heaving waves, as they rippled ashore,
Gleamed bright with the tint of its magical dye.

The *swallows* were sweeping the fields of the air,
The *blackbird* sang forth from its leafy retreat,
And the flow'rs, renewed in their bloom, smiled as fair
As the long promised land at the Israelites' feet.

Beside me the *roses* and *lilies* were spread,
The *pink* and *carnation* of delicate vest,
The *woodbine* lifted the pride of its head,
And the dial of the *sunflower* was turned to the west.

The *butterfly* wantoned on wings of delight,
While the *bee*, on her errand of industry bent,
Was rifling the blooms, at the fall of the night,
For a noonday of tempest in idleness spent.

To the main, to the mountains, with love-blooming eye,
Rejoicing I turned, and their looks were as calm
As the beautiful arch of that deep, azure sky,
Whose aspect was holy, whose zephyr was balm.

Oh! thus, ere the days of this pilgrimage cease,
May the sunset of life be as placid and mild,
The storms of Adversity stilled into peace,
All passion becalmed, and all sorrow exiled!

Blackwood's Magazine.

THIS is the poet's description of an evening in June, after a storm, such as not unfrequently occurs in this month; for, like its predecessors April and May, it is of a changeful character. In mild and favourable weather, the flower garden is in all its glory at the commencement of June. Hervey, in his 'Reflections on a Flower Garden,' says, 'What an enchanting *situation* is this! One can scarce be melancholy within the atmosphere of flowers. Such lively hues, and delicious odours, not only address themselves agreeably to the senses, but touch, with a surprising delicacy, the sweetest movements of the mind

to the heart-inspiring
Vernal delight and joy:

How often have I felt them dissipate the *gloom* of thought, and transfuse a sudden gaiety through the dejected spirit! I cannot wonder, that kings descend from their *thrones*, to walk amidst blooming ivory and gold; or retire from the most sumptuous feast, to be recreated with the most refined sweets of the garden. I cannot wonder, that queens forego, for a while, the compliments of a nation, to receive the tribute of the parterre; or withdraw from all the glitter of a *court*, to be attended with the more splendid *equipage* of a bed of flowers.'

'When we find ourselves (says Addison) inspired with this pleasing instinct, this secret satisfaction and

complacency, arising from the beauties of the creation, let us consider to *whom* we stand indebted for all these entertainments of sense; and *who* it is that thus opens his hand, and fills the world with good. Such an habitual disposition of mind *consecrates* every field and wood; turns an *ordinary walk* into a morning or evening sacrifice; and will improve those transient gleams, which naturally brighten up and refresh the soul, on such occasions, into an inviolable and perpetual state of bliss and happiness.'

Innumerable *flowers* and herbs now embellish our gardens, gratify our sense of smell, and purify and renovate the atmosphere: among the former, the *rose* demands and receives our admiration, and is the constant theme of poetical eulogy.

The Roses.[1]

From the Dutch of Bilderdyk.

I saw them once blowing
While morning was glowing,
But now are their withered leaves strewed o'er the ground,
For tempests to play on,
For cold worms to prey on,
The shame of the garden that triumphs around.

Their buds which then flourished
With dew-drops were nourished,
Which turned into pearls as they fell from on high;
Their hues are all banished,
Their fragrance all vanished,
Ere Evening a shadow has cast from the sky.

[1] William Bilderdyk, admired as the first poet that modern Holland has produced, and not less distinguished by the brilliant qualities of his mind, did not, in his youth, seem to show any happy disposition for study. His father, who formed an unfavourable opinion of his talents, was much distressed, and frequently reproached him in severe terms, for his inattention and idleness, to which young Bilderdyk did not appear to pay much attention. In 1776, the father, with a news[illegible]n his hand, came to stimulate him, by showing the advertiseme[illegible] a prize [illegible]ed by the Society of Leyden, and decreed to the author of a piece of poetry, signed with these words: 'An author 18 years old,' who was invited to make himself known. 'You ought to blush, idler,' said old Bilderdyk to his son. 'Here is a boy only of your age, and though so young, is the pride and happiness of his parents; and you———.' 'It is myself,' answered young William, throwing himself into his father's arms.

I saw, too, whole races
Of glories and graces
Thus open and blossom, but quickly decay:
And smiling and gladness,
In sorrow and sadness,
Ere life reached its twilight fade dimly away.

Joy's light-hearted dances,
And melody's glances,
Are rays of a moment—are dying when born;
And Pleasure's best dower
Is nought but a flower,
A vanishing dew-drop—a gem of the morn.

The bright eye is clouded,
Its brilliancy shrouded,
Our strength disappears, we are helpless and lone:
No reason avails us,
And intellect fails us;
Life's spirit is wasted, and darkness comes on.

London Magazine.

The *Austrian rose* blossoms in the early part of this month. The fields of clover *(trifolium pratense)* are now in blossom, and produce a delightful fragrance. The sweet-scented vernal grass *(anthoxanthum odoratum)*, which is the cause of the very delightful scent of hay, flowers in this month, and diffuses its fragrance through the country.

About the beginning of June, the pimpernel *(anagallis arvensis)*, thyme *(thymus serpyllum)*, the bitter sweet nightshade *(solanum dulcamara)*, white bryony, the dog-rose *(rosa canina)*, and the poppy *(papaver somniferum)*, have their flowers full blown.

To SLEEP.
From a MS. Volume of Poems, by M. L. B.

Welcome, sweet sleep, to this sad tortured breast!
Welcome, fair dreams! ye place me for a while
In a new world, where no dark cares molest
Joy's blissful reign, or cloud love's beamy smile.
Welcome, sweet sleep!—for thou alone hast power
To twine past pleasures with the present hour.

The absent and the dead are in thy train;
And who shall tell the speechless extasy
That fires the soul, when she beholds again
Those of whom length of years, or clime, or sea,

Or death's rapacity, have her despoiled,
And her best hopes and expectations foiled!

Soft is thine influence on man's earth-born frame,
More soft, more genial, on his heaven-formed mind;
And they are madmen, idiots, who name,
Thee, image of the scourge of human kind:
A sweeter, happier life 'tis thine to give,
And wert thou death—ah! who would ask to live?

The foxglove *(digitalis)*, which produces a beautiful flower, blossoms in this month as well as in the next. The common white lily *(lilium candidum)* is now in flower.

I saw a dew-drop, cool and clear,
Dance on a myrtle spray;
Gay colours decked the lucid tear,
Like those which gleam and disappear
When showers and sunbeams play.
Sol cast athwart a glance severe,
And scorched the pearl away.

High on a slender polished stem
A fragrant *lily* grew;
On the pure petals many a gem
Glittered, a native diadem
Of healthy morning dew;
A blast of lingering winter came,
And snapped the stem in two.

Fairer than morning's early tear,
Or lily's snowy bloom,
Shines beauty in its vernal year,
Bright, sparkling, fascinating, clear,
Gay, thoughtless of its doom:
Death breathes a sudden poison near,
And sweeps it to the tomb!

The common jay *(corvus glandarius)* in this month frequents our gardens, and makes great havock in the bean-rows.—See our last volume, p. 177.

One of the most interesting insects in June, is, in its perfect state, the angler's may-fly *(ephemera vulgata)*, which appears about the 4th, and continues nearly a fortnight. It emerges from the water, where it passes its aurelia state, about six in the evening, and dies about eleven at night. There are also the golden-green beetle *(scarabæus auratus)*; various

kinds of flies; the cuckoo-spit insect *(cicada spumaria)*, and the stag-beetle *(lucanus cervus)*. The several species of the gad-fly (*œstrus bovis—equi*— and *ovis*), the ox, horse, and sheep gad-fly, make their appearance in June.—See our last volume, p. 179, *note*.

The grasshopper makes his appearance in this month.—See some beautiful lines in our last volume, p. 179.

The *bee* pursues his ceaseless avocation of collecting the sweets of nature to form his elegant condiment of honey; descending

> Into the flower's deep heart, and thence
> Rifling, in all its purity,
> The prime, the quintessence.

The fern-owl may be seen about the middle of the month, in the evening, among the branches of oaks, in pursuit of its favourite repast, the fern-chaffer *(scarabæus solstitialis)*. Mackerel (*scomber scomber*) are taken in abundance this month.

The several kinds of *corn* come into ear and flower in June, as well as most of the numerous species of *grasses*. Gooseberries, currants, and strawberries, now begin to ripen.

> In June some earlier fruits have caught
> Their ripened glory from the sun;
> And other joys to sense are brought
> That can from sight alone be won;
> Beauty with usefulness combines,
> And from such union brighter shines. B. BARTON.

The *hay-harvest* commences about the end of the month, in the southern and midland parts of the kingdom. About this time, also, birds cease their notes. The rural ceremony of *sheep-shearing* usually takes place in June, and was formerly celebrated with much innocent pastime.—See our last volume, p. 180, for a description of a *Spanish* sheep-shearing.

Various species of veronicas and speedwells are

now seen with their blue flowers; together with the sweet and fragrant honeysuckle *(lonicera periclymenum)*, admired by all for the charms which it imparts to the rural walk. The *gum cistus* tribe shed daily their abundant flowers, covering the ground with the most delicate blossoms. The *heaths* begin to shine in all their glory, throughout this and the succeeding month, giving life and gaiety to bleak and sterile tracts. The onion tribe, the *junci*, or rushes, the *carices*, and many of the umbelliferous tribe, now show their blossoms; as, the wild carrot, the seeds of which are gratefully aromatic, and the tea an excellent medicine. The coriander (*coriandrum*), distinguished from the caraway *(carum)* by the globular form of its seeds, the parsnip, the fennel, and a variety of others of the same tribe; the *plantago* or plantain; the dogberry tree *(cornus sanguinea)*, the true love, the *sedum acre*, or wall pepper, which grows when suspended by the roots; the *salvia verbenaca*, wild clary or sage; and the *valeriana officinalis*, or great wild valerian, are now in flower. The flower de luce, or iris, also shines in the garden: the structure of its pistils is particularly worthy of attention; it has an elegant, faint, yet exquisite scent.

The trees, particularly the laurels and evergreens, now make their second or *midsummer shoots;* and the *acacia* at length puts out its elegant, light and bright foliage, and its tassels of white papilionaceous flowers, which emulate the orange in scent.

Having now registered the different changes which take place in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and having recapitulated the names of many beautiful English flowers which bloom, fade, and die in this month, we will, by way of contrast, conclude our Diary with a description of Flora's gifts as they appear in more favoured climes.

A Persian Wreath of Flowers.

'For me, for me,'
Cried Nourmahal impatiently,—
'Oh, twine that wreath for me to-night!'
Then rapidly, with foot as light
As the young musk-roe's, out she flew
To cull each shining leaf that grew
Beneath the moonlight's hollow beams,
For this enchanted Wreath of Dreams,
Anemones and seas of gold [1],
And new-blown lilies of the river,
And those sweet flow'rets that unfold
Their buds on Camadeva's quiver [2];
The tube-rose, with her silvery light,
That in the gardens of Malay
Is called the Mistress of the Night,
So like a bride, scented and bright,
She comes out when the Sun's away.
Amaranths, such as crown the maids
That wander through Zamara's shades;
And the white moon-flower, as it shows
On Serendib's high crags to those
Who near the isle at evening sail,
Scenting her clove-trees in the gale;
In short, all flow'rets and all plants,
From the divine Amrita tree [3],
That blesses heaven's inhabitants
With fruits of immortality,
Down to the *basil* tuft that waves
Its fragrant blossom over graves,
And to the humble *rosemary*,
Whose sweets so thanklessly are shed
To scent the desert and the dead.

MOORE.

[1] Hemasagara, or the sea of gold, with flowers of the brightest gold colour.—*Sir W. Jones.*

[2] This tree (the nagacesara) is one of the most delightful on earth, and the delicious odour of its blossoms justly gives them a place in the quiver of Camadeva, or the god of love.—*Sir W. Jones.*

[3] The largest and richest sort of the jambu, or rose-apple.

JULY.

THIS word is derived from the Latin *Julius*, the surname of C. Cæsar, the dictator, who was born in it. Mark Anthony first gave to this month the name of July, which was before called *Quintilis*, as being the fifth month in the year, in the old Roman calendar established by Romulus.

Remarkable Days

In JULY 1824.

2.—VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

THIS festival was first instituted by Pope Urban VI, in commemoration of that remarkable journey which the Mother of our Lord took into the mountains of Judæa, in order to visit the mother of St. John the Baptist.—See a Sonnet to the Virgin Mary, by *Mr. Wordsworth*, in our last volume, p. 186.

3.—DOG-DAYS BEGIN.

These are a certain number of days before and after the heliacal rising of *Canicula*, or the dog-star, in the morning. The dog-days in our modern Almanacks occupy the time from July 3d to August 11th; the name being applied now, as it was formerly, to the hottest time of the year.

4.—TRANSLATION OF SAINT MARTIN.

This day was appointed to commemorate the removal or translation of St. Martin's body from one tomb to another much more noble and magnificent; an honour conferred on the deceased saint by Perpetuus, one of his successors in the see of Tours.

7.—THOMAS A BECKET.

This haughty prelate was born in London, in the year 1119, and was the son of Gilbert, a merchant, and Matilda, a Saracen lady, who is said to have fallen in love with him when he was a prisoner to

her father in Jerusalem. Thomas received the first part of his education at Merton Abbey in Surrey, whence he went to Oxford, and afterwards studied at Paris. In 1159, he made a campaign with King Henry to Toulouse, having in his own pay 1200 horse, besides a retinue of 700 knights or gentlemen. —For further particulars respecting Becket we refer to T.T. for 1814, pp. 166-172; for 1815, p. 220; and for 1822, p. 198.

*8. 1822.—RT. REV. T. F. MIDDLETON, D.D., BISHOP OF CALCUTTA, DIED,

Well known to the learned world, by his excellent 'Treatise on the Doctrine of the Greek Article, applied to the Criticism and the Illustration of the New Testament.' Dr. M. was consecrated Bishop of Calcutta in 1814, and, on his arrival in India, was mainly instrumental in founding the 'Mission College at Calcutta,' towards the erection and endowment of which, the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and the Society for Missions to Africa and the East, have each contributed £5000. Dr. M. was educated at Christ's Hospital, and graduated at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge.

*14. 1823.—REV. WREDEN BUTLER DIED, ÆT. 80.

Mr. Butler was born at Margate, and at the age of 14, was articled to an attorney in London. When the stipulated term expired, Mr. B. renounced the profession of the law on conscientious grounds, and resolved to prepare himself for the established church, of which he was afterwards ordained a minister. The very popular, but unfortunate Dr. William Dodd directed his course of classical and theological reading, which he never wholly laid aside; to whom, in his turn, he acted as an assiduous and indefatigable amanuensis, from 1764 till his patron's ignominious end in June 1777.

Dr. Dodd's 'Commentary on the Holy Bible,' a work in three volumes, folio, begun in 1765 and published in 1770, was in part carefully compiled,

and altogether written out fairly for the press, by the Rev. Weeden Butler, who also assisted in editing the four last volumes of 'The Christian's Magazine,' and revised the rough copy and corrected the proof sheets of the poem in blank verse, 'Thoughts in Prison.' In the last singularly affecting composition, occur lines so indicative of the worth of the person eulogized and of the condemned author's gratitude, that we subjoin them with pleasure:—

> But I am lost! a criminal adjudged!
> A guilty miscreant!—Canst thou think, my friend,
> Oh, BUTLER,—'midst a million faithful found!—
> Oh, canst thou think, who knowest, who long hast known,
> My inmost soul; oh, canst thou think that life, &c.

Mr. Butler was reader to Dr. Dodd at Charlotte-street Chapel, Pimlico, and afterwards minister and part proprietor of this once fashionable house of prayer; and he continued to officiate here till the year 1814. He was more than forty years master of a classical school at Chelsea, in which he is succeeded by his eldest son. Mr. Butler's writings were many and multifarious; but his known publications are few, and mostly reprints of other writers.

A very fine portrait of Dr. Dodd, painted by Gainsborough, and a large quarto volume of the Doctor's inedited poems in MS., including a tragedy called 'The Syracusan,' and a comedy called 'Sir Roger de Coverly,' are left by Mr. Butler to his legatees. The portrait is the only likeness extant. The poems are pleasingly composed. The Rev. Philip Dodd and Rev. Weeden Butler, junior, possess all the Doctor's unprinted sermons.

15.—SAINT SWITHIN.

Swithin was promoted to holy orders by Helmstan, Bishop of Winchester, at whose death, in 852, King Ethelwolf granted him the see. In this he continued eleven years, and died in 868. For some remarks on the popular saying respecting St. Swithin, so amply verified in the months of July and August 1823, see our former volumes.

*17. 1823.—THE ABBE MACQUIN DIED.

This accomplished French scholar sought refuge from the horrors of the year 1792, on the peaceful shores of England. He took up his abode at Hastings, and applied himself to the study of the English language, to which he was previously a perfect stranger, with so much success, that, in the course of a few months, he was enabled to address a composition, in English blank-verse, to a gentleman of considerable literary acquirements, in a style of grammatical accuracy rarely equalled by a foreigner, even after a long course of study.

Altogether dependent upon his own personal exertions, in a strange land, without friends or pecuniary resources, the Abbé had hitherto supported himself, and assisted some of his suffering companions in misfortune, by the sale, for very trifling sums, of his sketches of some of the picturesque scenery in the neighbourhood of Hastings: when, in the early part of the year 1793, the present Norroy King of Arms, to whom he had been accidentally introduced soon after his arrival in England, suggested to him the employment of his pencil in heraldic designs. The offer was accepted; his pencil, which, at a more auspicious period of his life, had been a source of amusement in the hours of relaxation from study, was destined to secure to him an honourable independence; and, from that period, he became attached to the College of Arms as an heraldic draughtsman, and had the happiness, during a long series of years, to enjoy the friendship of many of its members, among whom the late Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, entertained for him the highest regard.

The Abbé Macquin's habits of life were very retired, constantly dedicating his leisure to literary pursuits: and he made himself so well acquainted with the English language, that, in the course of the last fifteen years, he edited several works of considerable merit; though, from a feeling of diffidence, as a foreigner, he could not be prevailed upon to

allow them to be put forth to the public under his own name. Having a great taste for lexicographical knowledge, he devoted much of his time, towards the close of his life, in illustrating the last edition of Johnson's Dictionary; the result of which, under the title of 'Etymological Gleanings,' it was his intention to have offered to the public. His Latin Poem, entitled, 'Tabella Cibaria, or the Bill of Fare,' illustrated by copious and highly entertaining notes, published about three years since, was composed by him soon after his arrival in this country, and is a work displaying considerable ingenuity and classical learning.

An amateur of the Fine Arts, he possessed a thorough knowledge of the various schools of Painting; and his judgment of antient pictures, which was frequently appealed to by the collectors of the day, has been rarely surpassed. He sketched with great spirit and effect; and his heraldic employment placed him in the way of exercising his taste upon several public occasions. At one period of his life, he had the misfortune to be deprived of sight; but this having been restored to him by an operation performed by the father of the present eminent oculists, the Messrs. Wares, the Abbé sought to make an appropriate remuneration to his benefactor: that truly skilful and benevolent man, however, refused to take any fee from a literary gentleman, and a foreigner driven to England for an asylum. The Abbé, penetrated with gratitude, immediately set to work and painted a very beautiful picture, we believe a crucifixion, which he presented to the oculist, as a pleasing evidence of his 'memory of the heart.'

If the Abbé Macquin was distinguished for his classical taste and learning, he was no less so for the substantial endowments which adorn the character of an honest man. He was born and educated in the Roman Catholic faith: but his religious principles were marked by a feeling of liberality and benevolence; his manners were cheerful, his memory

retentive; and, had he sought to extend the circle of his acquaintance, few men, perhaps, possessed in a higher degree the requisite qualifications for polished society.

*19. 1821.—KING GEORGE IV CROWNED.

Some interesting particulars of this august ceremony will be found in T. T. for 1822, pp. 194-206. We now add the following authentic document:—

An Account of the Money expended at His Majesty's Coronation, stating the Amount, under the several Heads, expended, and from what Sources the Money was supplied.

	£	s.	d.
Lord Steward, expenses attending the banquet -	25,184	0	8
Lord Chamberlain, for the furniture and decorations of Westminster Abbey, and Westminster Hall; for providing the Regalia; for dresses, &c. of the persons attending and performing various duties	111,172	9	10
Master of the Horse, for the charger for the Champion - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	118	18	6
Master of the Robes, for His Majesty's robes, &c.	24,704	8	10
Surveyor-General of Works, for fitting up Westminster Abbey and Westminster Hall, platforms, &c. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	50,307	9	1
W. D. Fellowes, Esq., Secretary to His Majesty's Great Chamberlain, for expenses incurred - -	2,500	0	0
Hire of the Theatres - - - - - - - - - - -	3,504	15	0
Master of the Mint, for medals - - - - - - - -	4,770	5	4
Sir Geo. Nayler, for expenses in the Earl Marshal's department - - - - - - - - - - - -	2,500	0	0
Sir Geo. Nayler, towards the publication of the Account of the Ceremony - - - - - - - - - -	3,000	0	0
Deputy Earl Marshal, usual fee - - - - - - - -	800	0	0
Sir R. Baker, expense of Police - - - - - - - -	981	18	10
Sir T. Tyrwhit, for messengers and doorkeepers, House of Lords - - - - - - - - - - - -	173	2	6
Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, for snuff-boxes for Foreign Ministers - - - - - - - - - - - -	8,205	15	0
Earl of Kinnoul, on account of pursuivants and heralds in Scotland - - - - - - - - - - - -	254	7	7
	238,238	0	2
Note.—A few claims are still unsettled, the amount probably not exceeding - - - - - - - - - -	1,000	0	0
Paid out of the sum voted by Parliament, in the Session 1820 - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100,000	0	0
Paid out of money received from France on account of pecuniary indemnity, under Treaty, anno 1815	138,238	0	2
	238,238	0	2

20.—SAINT MARGARET.

She was born at Antioch, and was the daughter of a Pagan priest. Olybius, president of the East, under the Romans, wished to marry her; but finding that Margaret was a Christian, he postponed his intended nuptials until he could prevail upon her to renounce her religion. Our saint, however, was inflexible, and was first tortured, and then beheaded, in the year 278.

A *beautiful hymn*, supposed to be sung by the people of Antioch immediately after the execution of Margaret, may be seen in our last volume, pp. 188-191.

22.—MARY MAGDALEN.

This day was first dedicated to the memory of St. Mary Magdalen, by King Edward VI; and in his Common Prayer, the *Gospel* for the day is from St. Luke, chap. vii, verse 36. Our reformers, however, upon a more strict inquiry, finding it doubtful whether this woman, mentioned in the Gospel, was really Mary Magdalen, thought it prudent to discontinue the festival.

25.—SAINT JAMES.

James was surnamed the *Great*, either on account of his age, being esteemed older than the other *James*, or for some particular honour conferred upon him by our Lord. He was by birth a Galilean, and partner with Peter in fishing, from which our Lord called him to be one of his disciples: *Mark* i, 19, 20. Of his ardent zeal, no other proof is necessary than his becoming the victim of Herod Agrippa. James is the tutelar saint of the Spaniards.

26.—SAINT ANNE.

She was the mother of the Virgin Mary, and the wife of Joachim her father. Her festival is celebrated by the Latin church.

*26. 1823.—RUSH-BEARING IN WESTMORLAND.

On this and the following day, the antient custom of *rush-bearing* took place at Ambleside. At seven o'clock on Saturday evening, a party of about

forty young girls went in procession to the church, preceded by a band of music. Each of the girls bore in her hands the usual *rush-bearings*, the origin and signification of which have so long puzzled the researches of our antiquarians. These elegant little trophies were disposed in the church, round the pulpit, reading desk, pews, &c., and had a really beautiful and imposing effect. They thus remained during the Sunday, till the service was finished in the afternoon, when a similar procession was formed to convey these trophies home again. We understand that formerly, in some parts of Lancashire, a similar ceremony prevailed, under the same designation, in which the *rush-bearings* were made in the form of females, with a fanciful rosette for the head; and on looking at these in Ambleside, some faint resemblance of the female form may be traced in the outline. No satisfactory explanation of this ceremony has ever yet been given: the attempt at one is, that it is a remnant of an antient custom, which formerly prevailed, of strewing the church-floors with rushes to preserve the feet from damp; but we cannot perceive what resemblance there is between the practice of strewing the church with rushes, and the trophies which are now carried from time immemorial. Whatever may have been its origin, we are happy to see that modern refinement has not yet destroyed this little innocent festivity along with morris-dances, wassail-bowls, and May-poles: and we trust that the gentlemen of Windermere and Grassmere will long preserve this last relic of the days that are gone.

Happy the age, and harmlesse were the dayes,
(For then true love and amity was found)
When every village did a May-pole raise,
And Whitson-ales and May-games did abound:
And all the lusty yonkers in a rout,
With many kisses daunced the rod about,
Then friendship to their banquets bid the guests,
And poor men fared the better for their feasts.

Pasquil's Palinodia.

Astronomical Occurrences

In JULY 1824.

Nobody looks at the SUN, but when he is obscured; nobody observes the MOON, but when she is eclipsed: then Nature seems to be in danger, then vain superstition is alarmed, and every one is afraid for himself.—SENECA.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Leo at 49 m. after 11 at night of the 22d of this month; and rises and sets, during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

July 1st,	Sun rises	45 m. after	3.	Sets	15 m. after	8
6th,	.....	48	.....	3	.....	12	.....	8
11th,	.....	52	.....	3	.....	8	.....	8
16th,	.....	57	.....	3	.....	3	.....	8
21st,	.....	3	.....	4	.....	57	.....	7
26th,	.....	10	.....	4	.....	50	.....	7
31st,	.....	17	.....	4	.....	43	.....	7

Equation of Time.

By adding the respective quantities in the following Table to the time as shown by a good sun-dial, or obtained by an observation of the Sun's transit, the results will be what should be indicated by a well regulated clock at the same moments.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

			m.	s.
Thursday, July 1st,	to the time by the dial	*add*	3	25
Tuesday, ... 6th,	.....	.....	4	20
Sunday, ... 11th,	.....	.....	5	4
Friday, ... 16th,	.....	.....	5	38
Wednesday, 21st,	.....	.....	6	0
Monday, ... 26th,	.....	.....	6	8
Saturday, ... 31st,	.....	.....	6	11

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	3d day, at	31 m. after	2	in the afternoon
Full Moon, ...	11th, ...	20	4	in the morning
Last Quarter,	19th, ...	.....	7	.....
New Moon, ..	26th, ...	.....	7	.....

Lunar Eclipse.

On the morning of the 11th of this month, the Moon will be eclipsed partly visible in this country. The circumstances, as calculated for the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, are,

	h.	m.	s.
Beginning of the eclipse	3	25	30
Moon sets eclipsed	4	2	0
Middle	4	9	30
Ecliptic opposition	4	20	15
End of the eclipse	4	53	30

Digits eclipsed 1° 37¼′ on the Moon's southern limb, or from the northern side of the Earth's shadow

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following passages of the Moon over the first Meridian during this month, will take place at favourable times for observation, should the atmosphere be free from clouds: viz.

July	3d,	at 50 m. after	5	in the evening
	4th,	... 40	6	.....
	5th,	... 31	7	.....
	6th,	... 23	8	.....
	7th,	... 16	9	.....
	8th,	... 9	10	at night
	9th,	... 1	11	.....
	10th,	... 50	11	.....
	17th,	... 7	4	in the morning
	18th,	... 48	4	.....
	19th,	... 33	5	.....
	20th,	... 20	6	.....
	21st,	... 12	7	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

This planet is now approaching very nearly to her fullest illumination, though by no means to her maximum brilliancy; for, on account of her variable distance from the Earth, this last takes place when little more than a fourth of her enlightened disk is turned towards the Earth.—See T. T. for 1819, p. 51.

July 1st,	Illuminated part	11·89043
	Dark part	0·10957

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Jupiter's proximity to the Sun renders the eclipses of these small bodies wholly invisible during the present month.

Form of Saturn's Ring.

July 1st, { Transverse axis ..... 1·000
Conjugate axis ..... — 0·478

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*
Mercury	10 28 *mor.*	10 39	11 0	11 29	11 56
Venus	11 28 *mor.*	11 32	11 40	11 48	11 55
Mars	5 55 *aft.*	5 40	5 27	5 14	5 3
Jupiter	0 43 *aft.*	0 24	0 6	11 47 *mor.*	11 29
Saturn	9 23 *mor.*	9 1	8 40	8 18	7 57
G. Sidus	0 21 *mor.*	11 52 *night*	11 27	11 1	10 36
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Venus	62 5	62 1	61 31	60 38	59 21
Mars	34 23	33 9	31 52	30 34	29 14
Jupiter	60 40	60 34	60 22	60 9	59 56
Saturn	57 24	57 31	57 38	57 44	57 49
G. Sidus	15 20	15 19	15 17	15 15	15 14

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

July 10th, with G. Sidus at 0 m. after 6 in the evening
25th, ... ♂ in Gemini ... 0 ..... 4 in the morning
25th, ... Jupiter ... 0 ..... 7 in the evening.

Mars will be in quadrature at a quarter past 2 in the afternoon of the 2d of this month. Georgium Sidus will be in opposition at 45 m. after 11 at night on the 5th. Venus will be in conjunction with ♂ in Gemini at 1 in the morning of the 13th; and Jupiter will be in conjunction at 30 m. after 6 in the morning of the 15th. Venus and Jupiter will likewise be in conjunction with each other at 1 in the morning of the 19th; Mercury and Jupiter at 7 in the evening of the 21st; and Mercury and Venus at 5 in the evening of the 24th. Mercury will also be in his superior conjunction at half an hour past midnight of the 25th; and Venus at 2 in the afternoon of the 29th.

INFLUENCE *of the* MOON *on the* WEATHER.

[Concluded from p. 150.]

'WE will next suppose the maximum of attraction to have ceased; the Moon having passed the line of her conjunction with the Sun. The atmospheric accumulation will, according to the laws of all fluids, necessarily subside to regain the equilibrium, and thus produce a current or *wind*, blowing towards England, *from the S.W.* quarter of the horizon. The current will, however, be necessarily subject to inflection or deflection in passing over mountain chains and long valleys, sufficient to account for any anomalies that may be observed.

'It is obvious that the portion of air which has been thus surcharged with vapour by the agency of the Sun, and its local position combined, will, on its return over large tracts of land, or in its progress towards colder climates, condense or deposit its superabundant vapour in the form of rain, snow, or hail. We will now suppose an example from the opposite point of the hemisphere. Let the New Moon happen at 3 in the morning. The influence of attraction will, according to this theory, be most predominant in the N.E. part of the heavens, or over the Frozen Ocean and the dry deserts of Siberia, &c. It must be obvious that the air accumulated in such situations will not contain, by any means, so large a portion of water in solution as in the former instance. Hence, we find the N.E. wind (which usually prevails in spring) much drier than from any other quarter, though the temperature of the air may be 10° or 15° higher than in the depth of winter. In fact, the humidity of the air, and the consequent probability of rain ensuing, is almost entirely dependent on the state of the wind, or rather the point of the compass from whence it blows.

'Under any vicissitudes of temperature, therefore, we very seldom experience *falling weather* while the wind blows steadily from the N. or N.E.; the only

exception to the rule being the production of accidental snow-storms, which are produced by opposite currents of air meeting each other: the S.W., for instance, with its excess of vapour, meeting a current from the N.E., which condenses the vapour into snow or hail.

'From the south, or S.W., the wind passing over an immense tract of water, and suffering a very considerable reduction of temperature by coming into higher latitudes; at every season of the year, the wind coming from these points of the compass brings with it falling weather; unless the clouds have been previously exhausted of their average portion of aqueous vapour by electric or any other *accidental* agency.

'It is not necessary that we should go round the 32 points of the compass, in illustration of the theory we propose for arriving at some tolerable *data* for estimating changes of the weather; we shall, therefore, briefly consider the lunar influence when in opposition to that of the Sun. At the *full* Moon we observe a similar effect on the tides as at the *new* Moon; only in a less degree. And, as far as the observations of the writer of this article have gone, there is also a less decided *change* produced in the atmosphere at the time of the opposition than at the conjunction. In at least three cases out of four he has noticed a general commotion and cloudiness in the atmosphere, from 12 to 18 hours before the conjunction or opposition; though the barometer and hygrometer may not indicate any change of weather impending.

'There is, however, at first view, something anomalous in a similar result being obtained—the elevation of the spring tides—when the Moon is in the very opposite points of her orbit. When she is interposed between the Sun and the Earth, as at the conjunction, the joint attraction of these bodies on the waters and the atmosphere of the Earth can be easily

comprehended. But when the Moon is in opposition it is more difficult to reconcile the theory to the phenomena observed, without going at length into the theory of centrifugal and centripetal forces. We know of no adequate means by which we can estimate the absolute power of gravitation, or the force of the Sun's attraction on the Earth's surface. But the Moon enables us to form a *comparative* estimate of that force, by the additional effect on the tides at the time of the New Moon. And as the fact is unquestionable that the rise of the tides follows the Moon towards its opposition, as well as at its conjunction, we may fairly infer that a similar influence is exercised on our atmospheric air, though not probably to equal extent, in proportion to the superior attraction of these bodies when in conjunction.

'We shall defer any farther remarks on this intricate subject at present, only observing, that the annexed Table gives the maximum of influence as to the probability of dry or wet weather ensuing from the change of the Moon happening at midnight or mid-day, but we should rather give it an hour later, as an average. It may also be worthy of remark that the present lunation afforded a proof of the inference to be deduced from this Table. New Moon happened on the 10th of May, 1823, about 4 p.m. Now, according to the above theory, the conjunction having taken place in the W.S.W. point of the heavens, we are justified in expecting showery weather. Accordingly, after a lowering atmosphere throughout the morning, considerable rain fell in the vicinity of the metropolis, from six till eight o'clock in the evening of Saturday, and also on the following day; and the weather has been more or less showery during the whole fortnight. It is also remarkable, that, previously to the 10th instant, we had six weeks of unusually dry weather for the spring season of the year.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE[1].

WEATHER IN SUMMER.	If the New Moon or Full Moon happens near the hour of	WEATHER IN WINTER.
Very rainy.	12 at noon, from	Much rain or snow.
Rain.	2 to 4 aft.	Rain or snow.
Showery weather.	4 to 6 do.	Frequent showers.
Changeable.	6 to 8 do.	Changeable.
Fair, if wind N.W. Rain, if wind S. or S.W.	8 to 10 do.	Fair & frosty, if wind N. or N.E. Rain or snow, if wind S. or S.W.
Fair.	10 to 12 night,	Fair and frosty.
Settled fair.	12 to 2 morn.	Hard frost, unless wind S.W.
Cold, but fair.	2 to 4 do.	Ditto.
Cold and changeable.	4 to 6 do.	Changeable, unless wind E.
Cold wind with showers.	6 to 8 do.	Rain if wind W., snow if wind E.
Showery.	8 to 10 do.	Stormy.
Rainy.	10 to 12 noon.	Much rain and wind.

'REMARKS.—The chances are greatly in favour of the change of the Moon, in any given quarter of the heavens, occasioning a *prevailing wind* from that quarter for several days ensuing. Consequently, if the change of the Moon takes place near *midnight*, when the Sun is due N. or N. N. E., dry weather may be expected to follow. Or, if the Moon changes at noon, or at 2 in the afternoon, we may expect falling weather.—When the Moon is in quadrature, it has no apparent influence on the weather.'

The Naturalist's Diary

For JULY 1824.

The sultry noontide of July
Now bids us seek the forest's shade;
Or for the crystal streamlet sigh,
That flows in some sequestered glade.

B. BARTON.

How delightful is the morning ramble at this season, before the great heats begin! how grand a spectacle is the 'uprising of the King of Day!' but how

[1] 'This table is formed on the model of those inserted in the Pocket Almanacks. But it has been carefully compiled from the average of ten years' observation of meteorological phenomena. We therefore offer it as an approximation to all that is attainable by way of foretelling changes of the weather.

few know any thing of his splendours, but in the description of the poets. Our noblest bards have been the most fervent admirers of the magnificence as well as the beauty of Nature, and saw and felt what they so admirably described. SHAKSPEARE was certainly an early riser, or he could never have painted this and other exquisite pictures of a sunrise.

> Full many a glorious morning have I seen
> Flatter the mountain-tops with sovereign eye,
> Kissing with golden face the meadows green,
> Gilding pale streams with heavenly alchymy.

Let us listen also to a modern poet of no mean celebrity:—

> My eye looked round upon the vast expanse
> Of glorious Nature—and my raptured vision,
> Revelling in the early day-beams' wakened glance,
> Saw rocks, and streams, and woods—like scenes elysian,
> Uncurtained slowly from the realms of sleep:
> There the Sun drove his golden chariot proudly,
> And the sonorous ocean thundered loudly,
> What time the waters rushing down the steep
> Lifted their voice harmonious—every where
> The spirit of love was brooding—and the smile
> Of vernal freshness and of beauty rare:
> There was a gentle music in the air,
> That hung around the mist-robed mountains, while
> A calm and quiet influence seemed to breathe
> In fragrance o'er the vales and on the hills:
> The dews had hung up many a diamond wreath
> On herbs and budding flowers—and the meek rills
> Trembled at morning's first salute, and thrilled
> And murmured joy. Slowly and silently
> The vapours which the bosom of earth had filled,
> Melted away in light!—the all-present eye
> Of heaven beamed brightly: and methought the day
> Looked beautiful as when an infant wakes
> From its soft slumbers—and in every ray
> I traced the visible presence—dark and dim—
> But still the presence visible of HIM,
> At whose first call the early morning breaks
> Thro' twilight's curtain. Higher yet and higher
> Rose the great central orb above our globe,
> Till heaven was girded with one azure robe,

And none could look upon that throne of fire,
On which perchance some spirit sits, and keeps
An awful reckoning with our earthly sphere:
For the great eye that sees us never sleeps;
It has its ministering angels wheresoe'er
Existence is—beneath us, and above,
Around us and within us, HE has there
His delegates.

May we add a third picture from the easel of BERNARD BARTON?

For thou art glorious! when from thy pavilion
Thou lookest forth at morning; flinging wide
Its curtain-clouds of purple and vermilion,
Dispensing light and life on every side;
Brightening the mountain cataract, dimly spied
Through glittering mist, opening each dew-gemmed flower,
Or touching, in some hamlet, far descried,
Its spiral wreaths of smoke that upward tower,
While birds their matins sing from [redacted] leafy bower.

And more magnificent art [redacted] bright SUN!
Uprising from the ocean's billowy bed:
Who, that has seen thee thus, as I have done,
Can e'er forget the effulgent splendours spread
From thy emerging radiance? Upwards sped,
E'en to the centre of the vaulted sky,
Thy beams pervade the heavens, and o'er them shed
Hues indescribable—of gorgeous dye,
Making among the clouds mute, glorious pageantry.

Then, then how beautiful, across the deep,
The lustre of thy orient path of light!
Onward, still onward, o'er the waves that leap
So lovelily, and show their crests of white,
The eye, unsated, in its own despite,
Still up that vista gazes; till thy way
Over the waters seems a pathway bright
For holiest thoughts to travel, there to pay
Man's homage unto HIM who bade thee 'RULE THE DAY!'[1]

Beautiful as is the sun-rise in any country, particularly in our own happy England, yet it is greatly 'shorn of its beams' when compared with the rise of this noble luminary in regions more immediately sub-

[1] See Napoleon and other Poems, pp. 70, 71. The whole poem is worthy an attentive perusal.

ject to its powerful influence. Of a sun-rise at *Mount Etna*, an acute traveller remarks, 'no imagination can form an idea of this glorious and magnificent scene. Neither is there on the surface of this globe any one point that unites so many awful and sublime objects:—the immense elevation from the surface of the earth, drawn as it were to a single apex, without any neighbouring mountain for the senses and imagination to rest upon, and recover from their astonishment in their way down to the world—and this point, or pinnacle, raised on the brink of a bottomless gulf, often discharging rivers of fire, and throwing out burning rocks, with a noise that shakes the whole island. Add to this, the unbounded extent of the prospect, comprehending the greatest diversity, and the most beautiful scenery in nature; with the rising Sun advancing in the east to illuminate the wondrous scene. The whole atmosphere by degrees kindled up, and showed dimly and faintly the boundless prospect around. Both sea and land looked dark and confused, as if only emerging from their original chaos; and light and darkness seemed still undivided, till the morning by degrees advancing, completed the separation. The stars are extinguished, and the shades disappear. The forests, which but now seemed black and bottomless gulfs, from whence no ray was reflected to show their form or colours, appear a new creation rising to the sight, catching life and beauty from every increasing beam. The scene still enlarges, and the horizon seems to widen and expand itself on all sides; till the Sun appears in the east, and with his plastic ray completes the mighty scene. All appears enchantment; and it is with difficulty we can believe we are still on earth. The senses, unaccustomed to such objects, are bewildered and confounded; and it is not till after some time that they are capable of separating and judging of them. The body of the Sun is seen rising from the ocean, immense tracks

both of sea and land intervening; various islands appear under your feet; and you look down on the whole of Sicily as on a map, and can trace every river through all its windings, from its source to its mouth. The view is absolutely boundless on every side; nor is there any one object within the circle of vision to interrupt it; so that the sight is every where lost in the immensity; and there is little doubt, that, were it not for the imperfection of our organs, the coasts of Africa, and even of Greece, would be discovered, as they are certainly above the horizon.'

HYMN *to the* SUN.

The Moon, the Moon is thine, O Night,
Not altogether dark art thou;
Her trembling crescent sheds its light,
Trembling and pale, upon thine antient brow.

The Moon is thine, and round her orb
A thousand sweet stars minister,
Whose twinkling rays dark wells absorb,
And all the wide seas drink them far and near.

They kiss the wide sea, and swift smiles
Of gladness o'er the waters creep;
Old hoary rocks rejoice, and isles,
And there is glory on the slumb'ring deep.

Afar—along the black hill's side,
Right blithe of heart the wanderers go,
While that soft radiance, far and wide,
Gleams on the winding streams and woods below.

And gaily for the fragile bark,
Through the green waves its path is shorn,
When all the murmurs of the dark
Cold sea lie calmed beneath that gliding horn.

Yet hail, ye glittering streaks, that lie
The eastern mountain tops upon!
Hail, ye deep blushes of the sky,
That speak the coming of the bridegroom SUN!

Hail to the healing beam of day,
That rouses every living thing;
The forest gulphs confess thy sway,
And upon fresh'ning branches glad birds sing.

And loathsome forms, that crept unseen
Beneath the star-light, faint and wan,
Cower in their brakes the thorns between,
Dreading that fervid eye, and its sure scan.

Triumphant! Welcome life and light:
Sing rocks and mountains, plain and sea!
Fearful, though lovely, was the night,
Hail to more perfect beauty—hail to Thee!

VALERIUS.

Although the natives of England are debarred from witnessing such magnificent scenes as those just described, and cannot contemplate the Parent of Light and Heat in the same resplendent glory in which the inhabitants of more southern climes are accustomed to observe him, they do not suffer the various evils and inconveniences usually attendant upon his scorching beams, in those enervating and mind-prostrating countries. Howell, in one of his 'Familiar Letters' to a friend in England, dated from Valencia, says, 'Though it be the same glorious Sun that shines upon you in England, which illuminates also this part of the hemisphere; though it be the Sun that ripeneth your pippins and our pomegranates; your hops, and our vineyards here; yet he dispenseth his heat in different degrees of strength: those rays that do but warm you in England, do half roast us here; those beams that irradiate only and gild your honeysuckle fields, do scorch and parch this chinky-gaping soil, and so put too many wrinkles upon the face of our common mother, the Earth. O blessed clime, O HAPPY ENGLAND! where there is such a rare temperature of heat and cold, and all the rest of elementary qualities, that one may pass, and suffer little, all the year long, without either shade in summer or fire in winter.'—(p. 52, ed. 1754.)

Our Gloucestershire correspondent from the banks of the Severn, who dates his communication in July last (1823), affords some interesting observations on the effects of the winter of 1822-3, as influencing the attendants of our summer, which cannot be better

placed than at the commencement of this month. 'The season of the year (he observes) is now so far advanced, that some judgment may be formed of the effects of last winter upon that small race of creatures that animate and interest our rural scenery, but which are little heeded by general observers in the great concourse that usually enlivens our summer months; yet reason tells us that they all perform their part in the great theatre of creation, though the exact assignment may be unknown to us. From the observation of several years, it appears, that our *summer visitors*, the minstrelsy of the woods, are fewer in number than usually noted, and it is probable that our little emigrants suffered by adverse gales in their retreat from us last autumn, or upon their return to us in the spring; for the severity of winter could hardly have operated greatly to reduce their numbers, in those mild regions which our soft-billed birds choose for their summer asylum: the few that returned in the spring, from the cold ungenial weather in the period of incubation, have reared such slender broods, that scarcely any are observed in gardens which generally have abounded with these little plunderers of their products. A few white-throats (*motacilla sylva*), or a solitary brood of black-caps *(m. atracapilla)*, alone appear: our domestic *robin* is even little seen! but this familiar bird, in the snowy winter of the year, our cats and our officious kindness generally reduce. The absence of these little creatures, trifling as they are, has given a solitary character to, and occasioned an unusual silence in our gardens, of which experience alone can render us sensible.

'Amidst the brief but splendid intervals of sunshine that burst upon us, a few nettle butterflies *(papilio urtica)*, or a solitary weak specimen of the common white fly *(pap. napi)*, or the cabbage butterfly, appear, but nearly all the other species of this animated race are strangers to our fields. One species of the papilio alone seems innoxious to every con-

tingency of weather, and abounds in all seasons: the plain, brown meadow butterfly, uninfluenced by atmospheric change, breeds in profusion in the dryest and the moistest years, and, by some peculiar habit or conformity, escapes the injuries that annihilate or reduce nearly to destruction most others of the race; and they now, without any competitor, enjoy the range of the meadow: unheeding the rains, they rest in the storm with closed wings, and immediately as the sun returns they commence again their frolic from flower to flower. The common *wasp* is another insect whose preservation and increase seem regulated by causes not fully understood by us: mild winters and dry springs we should consider favourable to these creatures, whose residence in the cold months is so near the surface of the earth, and severe damp seasons unpropitious; but such is not always the case: multitudes of females survived the inclemencies of our last winter and spring, and their nests now are proportionately abundant. There is an idea that the same temperature and circumstances which favour the production of the *plum* species, are congenial to the nature and increase of the *wasp*.'

All is vigour and activity in the vegetable kingdom in this month, and the most patient observer of nature is almost bewildered by the countless profusion of interesting objects.

Towards the middle of the month, the spiked willow *(spiræa salicifolia)*, jessamine *(jasminum officinale)*, hyssop *(hyssopus officinalis)*, and the bell-flower *(campanula)*, have their flowers full blown. The *campanula patula* is a beautiful lilac bell-flower, found very generally on heaths and dry banks, and worth cultivating in gardens, for ornament: it flowers through the greater part of this month and the next. The wayfaring tree, or *guelder rose*, shows its bright red berries. The Virginian sumach *(rhus typhinum)* now exhibits its scarlet tufts of flowers upon its bright green circles of leaves. The berries

of the mountain ash turn red. The lavender (*lavendula spica*) is in flower. In this and the following month, the purple loosestrife (*lythrum salicaria*) ornaments the sides of ponds and brooks, and, by its tall spike of blue flowers, gives a rich appearance to the cooling retreats of river banks: it is intermixed with the meadowsweet (*spiræa ulmaria*), the spicy fragrance of which scents the surrounding air.

> Come, ye brown *oaks*, and stoop your heavy boughs,
> Making cool twilight round my sultry brows!
> Wave your white beauty, *lilies*; *hyacinths*, sigh;
> And, *woodbine*, from your blossomed canopy,
> That stirs the smooth breast of this quiet stream,
> Shed on my eyes some deep, Elysian dream.
> And come, thou young and silken-pinioned Wind,
> That the pale, virgin May, sends forth to find
> Her flowers, in Winter's frozen bosom sleeping;
> Wing round this leafy bed, in whispers creeping
> Like softest music on my slumbering ear;
> Until the murmur of the grasshopper,
> And the fresh sweetness of the rose's breath,
> Tell me that day is faint, and nigh to death;
> And the small stars are waking, one by one,
> And to fair *Tethys'* couch the weary Sun is gone.

The enchanter's nightshade (*circæa lutetiana*); the Yorkshire sanicle (*pinguicula vulgaris*); the water horehound or gypsy wort (*lycopus europæus*), the great cat's tail, or reed mace (*typha latifolia*), the common nettle (*urtica dioica*); the goose grass (*asperula galium*); the fringed water-lily (*menyanthis nymphoides*): solanum belladonna, dulcamara and nigrum; the asparagus, and some species of rumex; with buck-wheat (*polygonum fagopyrum*), and a variety of other plants, may be almost said to bloom, fade, and die, within the present month. The *dianthus*, or pink and carnation tribe, grace the gardens of all—while their allies, the several species of *lychnis*, *cerastium*, and *spergula*, add beauty to the fields, and glow with every hue and shade of colorific radiance. The *rhodiola rosea* is also in bloom, the dried root of which emulates the odour of the *rose*—

a flower which, like the *Elcaya*[1] of the East, is the source of most delightful recollections.

Gay creatures! sweet, though mournful 'tis to see
How each prefers a garland from that tree
Which brings to mind her childhood's innocent day,
And the dear fields and friendships far away.
The maid of India, blest again to hold
In her full lap the *champac*'s leaves of gold,[2]
Thinks of the time when, by the Ganges' flood,
Her little play-mates scattered many a bud
Upon her long black hair, with glossy gleam,
Just dripping from the consecrated stream;
While the young Arab, haunted by the smell
Of her own mountain flowers, as by a spell,—
The sweet *Elcaya*, and that courteous tree[2],
Which bows to all who seek its canopy—
Sees called up round her by these magic scents,
The well, the camels, and her father's tents;
Sighs for the home she left with little pain,
And wishes e'en its sorrows back again. MOORE.

And we may add, with the same elegant poet,

The spirit of her youth
Returns in sleep, sparkling with all the truth
And innocence, once her's, and leads her back
In mournful mockery o'er the shining track
Of her young life, and points out every ray
Of hope and peace she lost upon the way!

In a similar strain sings the bard of Woodbridge:—

It is not through the *eye* alone
We gather either bale or bliss,
From scenes which it may gaze upon:
Their sweetest tint, their deepest tone,
That which most saddens or endears,
Is shed on them by thoughts and feelings,
Which rise at Memory's still revealings,
From dreams of former years!

The scenes that met our early gaze,
The very turf we trod on then,

[1] A tree famous for its perfume, and common on the hills of Yemen.

[2] Of the genus *mimosa*, which droops its branches whenever any person approaches it, seeming as if it saluted those who retire under its shade.

The trees we climbed; as fancy strays
Back to those long-past hours again,
Revive, and re-appear, as when
The soul with sorrow kept no strife;
But, in its first imaginings,
Unfurled its own ethereal wings,
And sprang to light and life'.

Towards the end of the month, the flowers of the laurustinus (*viburnum tinus*), and the burdock (*arctium lappa*), begin to open; and the elecampane (*inula helenium*), the amaranth (*amaranthus caudatus*[2]), the great water plantain (*alisma plantago*), and water mint (*mentha aquatica*), have their flowers full blown. The mezereon (*daphne mezereon*), which in January cheered the eye with its flowers without leaves, and regaled the smell, now displays its scarlet berries through its bright green leaves.

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[1] Napoleon and other Poems, by Bernard Barton, p. 136.

[2] *To the* WILD AMARANTH.

The *rose*, that gave its perfume to the gale,
And triumphed for an hour, in gay parade,
Pride of Damascus, bright imperial flower,
Was born to fade!
Shorn of its bloom, and rifled of its power,
Seared by the blast, and scattered in the vale!

So youth shall wither, beauty pass away!
The bloom of health, the flush of mantling pride!
Nor wealth, nor skill, nor eloquence, can save,
From swift decay!
Beauty and youth are dust, to dust allied,
And time returns its tribute to the grave!

Pale, unobtrusive tenant of the field!
Thy fair, unsullied form shall still remain,
Mid summer's heat and autumn's chill career,
And winter's reign;
Ev'n the first honours of the floral year
To thee alone shall gay Narcissus yield.

Fair emblem art thou of the spotless breast!
Like thee, unfading flower, shall virtue bloom,
When youth and all its bustling pride repose
Deep in the tomb!
When beauty's cheek shall wither, like the rose,
And beauty's sparkling eye shall be at rest.

Gospel Advocate, Jan. 1822, *Boston*, U. S.

The meadows begin to whiten, and the flowers that adorn them are mowed down. The *corn* gradually assumes a yellow hue, and the colours that decorate the rural scene are no longer so numerous.

As summer advances, the vocal music of the groves is lessened, and in this month may be said to cease altogether—if we except the chirping of the wren and two or three small birds. This is not the case, however, in South America.—See our last volume, p. 207.

Insects now take the place of the feathered tribe, and, being for the most part hatched in the spring, they are now in full vigour. It is a very amusing sight in some of our rural rambles, in a bright evening after a drizzling summer shower, to see the air filled throughout all its space with sportive organized creatures, the leaf, the branch, the bark of the tree, every mossy bank, the bare earth, the pool, the ditch, all teeming with animal life; and the mind that is ever framed for contemplation, must awaken now in viewing such a profusion and variety of existence. One of those poor little beings, the fragile *gnat*, becomes our object of attention, whether we regard its form, or peculiar designation in the insect world: we must admire the first, and innocently, perhaps, conjecture the latter. We know that Infinite Wisdom, which formed, declared it 'to be very good;' that it has its destination, and settled course of action, admitting of no deviation or substitution: beyond this, perhaps, we can rarely proceed, or, if we sometimes advance a few steps more, we are then lost in the mystery with which the incomprehensible Architect has thought proper to surround it. So little is human nature permitted to see (nor perhaps is it capable of comprehending much more than permitted), that it is blind beyond thought as to secondary causes; and admiration, that pure fountain of intellectual pleasure, is almost the only power permitted to us. We see a

wonderfully fabricated creature, decorated with a vest of glorious art and splendour, occupying almost its whole life in seeking for the most fitting station for its own necessities, exerting wiles and stratagems, and constructing a peculiar material to preserve its offspring against natural or occasional injury, with a forethought equivalent to reason—in a moment, perhaps, with all its splendour and instinct, it becomes the prey of some wandering bird! and human wisdom and conjecture are humbled to the dust. We can 'see but in part,' and the wisest of us is only, perhaps, something less ignorant than another. This sense of a perfection so infinitely above us, is the *natural* intimation of a Supreme Being; and as science improves, and inquiry is augmented, our imperfections and ignorance will become more manifest, and all our aspirations after knowledge only increase in us the conviction of knowing nothing. Every deep investigator of nature can hardly be possessed of any other than a humble mind.

In this month the grasshopper chirps his merry note, and the dew-moth and butterfly appear. Flying ants quit their nests. In Guatemala, a fertile province of Mexico, the ants are of the greatest service to the inhabitants: the particular species is called the *warrior-ant*, and is double the size of the common ant. They always move by large bodies, in regular array, like an army. They direct their march towards the habitations of man: wherever they enter a house, they spread all over it, and clear it so effectually as not to leave a single worm, reptile, or vermin of any sort behind them when they depart. To the larger creatures, such as snakes, scorpions, toads, rats, &c. they are formidable, from their numbers: in attacking these animals, they adhere so closely to their bodies, that they soon kill them, and devour them to the bones. When they have cleansed one house, they quit it and proceed to another. If any

injury be done to them when in the house, they revenge it by biting or stinging the assailant, and immediately retreat, leaving the vermin untouched.

About the middle or end of July, pilchards (*clupea pilchardus*) appear in vast shoals off the Cornish coast.—See our last volume, pp. 208-210, for some curious particulars of this precarious fishery.

In this and the following month, POMONA, with liberal hand, offers her fruits to allay the parching thirst: currants, gooseberries, raspberries, cherries, cranberries, and *strawberries*, are all peculiarly refreshing at this season:

> A fragrant bank of *strawberries*,
> Diapered with violets' eyes,
> Was tablecloth and fare.

And with such delightful fare before them, our readers, as they have contemplated and admired our sketches of a *sun-rise*, in all its glory (see p. 201), will not, perhaps, be displeased to examine 'SUNSET;' a highly-finished cabinet picture, in the very best style of our Suffolk friend, whose 'Sun-rise' we have already introduced to our readers:—

> Nor are thy evening splendours, mighty orb!
> Less beautiful; and, oh! more touching far,
> And of more power thought, feeling to absorb
> In silent ecstasy; to me they are,
> When, watchful of thy exit, one pale star
> Shines on the brow of summer's loveliest eve;
> And breezes, softer than the soft guitar,
> Whose plaintive notes Castilian maids deceive,
> Among the foliage sigh, and take of thee their leave.
>
> O! then it is delightful to behold
> Thy calm departure; soothing to survey
> Through opening clouds, by thee all edged with gold,
> The milder pomp of thy declining sway:
> How beautiful, on church-tower old and grey,
> Is shed thy parting smile; how brightly glow
> Thy last beams on some tall tree's loftiest spray,
> While silvery mists half veil the trunk below,
> And hide the rippling stream that scarce is heard to flow[1]!

[1] Napoleon and other Poems, by Bernard Barton, p. 72.

Ere the Sun drops below the horizon, we will give the description of an *Italian* Sun-set, as a companion to the 'Sun-rise from Mount Etna,' and which our readers may contrast with the *English* Sun-set, now displayed to their view. 'It was the evening of a burning day; and the breeze that slightly waved the grass, and bended the ripe corn with its quick steps, was as a refreshing bath to the animals who panted under the stagnant air of the day. Amid the buzzing of the crickets and dragon-flies, the agiolo's monotonous and regular cry told of clear skies and sunny weather; the flowers were bending beneath the dew, and the acacia, now in bloom, crowning its fan-like foliage with a roseate crest, sent forth a sweet scent. A few of the latest fire-flies darted here and there, with their bright green light: but it was July, and their season was well nigh past. Towards the sea, on the horizon, a faint lightning showed the over-heated state of the atmosphere, and killed by its brightness the last glories of the orange sun-set; the mountains were losing their various tints in darkness; and their vast amphitheatre looked like a ponderous unformed wall, closing in Lucca, whose lights glimmered afar off.'

To conclude our pictures of 'Sun-set,' let us take Mr. Ebony's '*Maga*,' and extract from it a beautiful little poem, subscribed with a Δ, which (with many other pieces under the same signature) is, we understand, from the pen of Mr. Dale, the well-known author of the 'Outlaw of Taurus,' &c. &c.: it is entitled

SUN-SET THOUGHTS.

How beautiful the setting Sun
Reposes o'er the wave!
Like Virtue, life's drear warfare done,
Descending to the grave:
Yet smiling with a brow of love,
Benignant, pure and kind,
And blessing, ere she soars above,
The realms she leaves behind.

The cloudlets, edged with crimson light,
Veil o'er the blue serene,
While swift the legions of the night
Are shadowing o'er the scene.
The sea-gull, with a wailing moan,
Upstarting, turns to seek
Its lonely dwelling-place upon
The promontory's peak.

The heaving sea—the distant hill—
The waning sky—the woods—
With melancholy musing fill
The swelling heart that broods
Upon the light of other days,
Whose glories now are dull,
And on the visions Hope could raise,
Vacant, but bountiful!

Where are the bright illusions vain
That fancy bodied forth?
Sunk to their silent caves again,
Aurora of the North:
Oh! who would live those visions o'er,
All brilliant though they seem,
Since Earth is but a desert shore,
And Life a weary dream!

AUGUST.

SEXTILIS was the antient Roman name of this month, being the sixth from March. The Emperor Augustus changed this name, and gave it his own, because in this month Cæsar Augustus took possession of his first consulship, celebrated three triumphs, reduced Egypt under the power of the Roman people, and put an end to all civil wars.

Remarkable Days

In AUGUST 1824.

1.—LAMMAS DAY.

THIS day, in the Romish church, is generally called *St. Peter in the Fetters,* in commemoration of this

apostle's imprisonment. It is probably derived from an old Saxon term, signifying *Loaf-Mass;* as it was customary for the Saxons to offer an oblation of loaves made of new wheat, on Lammas-day, as the first fruits of their new corn.

6.—TRANSFIGURATION.

Though this day was observed in remembrance of our Lord's *Transfiguration* on the Mount, by the primitive Christians, yet it is but of recent date in the church of Rome; as it was not instituted by Pope Calixtus until the year 1455.

7.—NAME OF JESUS.

Before the Reformation, this day was dedicated to *Afra,* a woman who had been converted to Christianity by Narcissus, Bishop of Jerusalem, and who afterwards suffered martyrdom; and the breviary was recognized by Paul V. Afterwards Donatus, who became a martyr in the time of Julian for refusing to sacrifice, was substituted in her place. Our reformers devoted it to the NAME OF OUR BLESSED LORD.

10.—SAINT LAWRENCE.

St. Lawrence was, by birth, a Spaniard, and treasurer of the church of Rome, being deacon to Pope Sextus, about the year 259. Soon afterwards, his bishop was killed by the soldiers of Valerian the emperor, with whom our saint would willingly have died. Lawrence refusing to deliver up the church treasure, which they imagined to be in his custody, he was laid upon a gridiron, and broiled over a fire. The celebrated palace of the Escurial is dedicated to this saint. See this described in T. T. for 1814, p. 199.

12. 1762.—KING GEORGE IV BORN.

15.—ASSUMPTION.

This is a festival in the Greek and Romish churches in honour of the supposed miraculous ascension of the Virgin Mary into heaven.—See an account of a splendid pageant formerly exhibited at Dieppe in honour of this day, in our last volume, pp. 224-227.

*16. 1822.—J. MITAN DIED,

A celebrated engraver, who deserved to be ranked with the Woollets and Byrnes, and other eminent engravers of the English school. Amongst those works which are justly appreciated by every amateur, may be mentioned the Engravings of Smirke's beautiful designs for Don Quixote; Gerard Dow's Musician; Leslie's Anne Page; many plates to Mr. Dibdin's Bibliographical Tour; and a delightful gem, after Palemberg, of the Masqued Ball, for Dibdin's *Ædes Althorpianæ*.

*18. 1822.—M. DELAMBRE DIED.

This eminent astronomer has rendered the most essential services to the noble science of which he was a professor. He freed it from the confined limits of arithmetic, and united instead the various elements which concur in the result of observation, by the laws of their algebraic dependence; thus giving to Mayer's tables a degree of perfection before considered ideal; and he has also placed the past history of astronomy in a clear point of view, giving its due praise to each progressive discovery.

*19. 1823.—ROBERT BLOOMFIELD DIED, ÆT. 57.

Robert Bloomfield was an extraordinary instance of natural endowments overcoming the severest oppression of circumstances, and achieving a high and lasting honour. He was born at the village of Honington, about eight miles from Bury in Suffolk, and received no instruction at school but in reading and writing. His first employment was that of a 'Farmer's Boy;' he was afterwards a journeyman shoemaker. Patronized by Mr. Capel Lloft, he came to London, and reaped some pecuniary advantage from the publication of his poems; he afterwards obtained a miserable pittance of about £60 a year in a law office, where he went through the formal drudgery of giving out and receiving papers from nine o'clock in the morning till a late hour in the evening;—an employment little congenial with his early occupations and his devotion to the Muses.

His '*Rural Tales*' were published in 1802; '*Good Tidings*,' two years afterwards: '*Wild Flowers*,' in 1806; '*Banks of Wye*,' in 1811; recently '*May-Day with the Muses*,' (noticed in our last volume, p. 145, note) and a *Drama*—exhibiting only the melancholy and fitful gleams of wasted genius. While penning this brief notice of the unfortunate Bloomfield, we have received some beautiful stanzas to his memory by BERNARD BARTON, and which, as they have been hitherto known only to the readers of the Suffolk Chronicle, we feel an additional pleasure in enlarging the sphere of their admirers.

On the DEATH *of* BLOOMFIELD, *the* SUFFOLK POET.

1.

Thou shouldst not to the grave descend
Unmourned, unhonoured, or unsung;—
Could harp of mine record thy end,
For thee that rude harp should be strung;—
And plaintive sounds as ever rung
Should all its simple notes employ,
Lamenting unto old and young
The Bard who sang THE FARMER'S BOY.

2.

Could Eastern Anglia boast a lyre
Like that which gave thee modest fame,
How justly might its every wire
Thy minstrel honours loud proclaim:
And many a stream of humble name,
And village-green, and common wild,
Should witness tears that knew not shame,
By Nature won for Nature's child.

3.

The merry *Horkey*'s passing cup
Should pause—when that sad note was heard;
The *Widow* turn *her hour-glass* up,
With tenderest feelings newly stirred;
And many a pity-wakened word,
And sighs that speak when language fails,
Should prove thy simple strains preferred
To prouder poet's lofty tales.

4.

Circling the *old oak table* round,
Whose moral worth thy measure owns,
Heroes and heroines yet are found
Like *Abra* and the *Widow Jones*;—

There *Gilbert Meldrum*'s sterner tones
In Virtue's cause are bold and free;
And e'en the patient suff'rer's moans,
In pain and sorrow—plead for thee.

5.

Nor thus beneath the straw-roofed cot
Alone—should thoughts of thee pervade
Hearts which confess thee unforgot,
On heathy hill, in grassy glade;
In many a spot by thee arrayed
With hues of thought, with fancy's gleam,
Thy memory lives!—in *Euston's* shade,
By *Barnham Water*'s shadeless stream!

6.

And long may guileless hearts preserve
Thy memory and its tablets be:
While Nature's healthful feelings nerve
The arm of labour toiling free;
While Childhood's innocence and glee
With green Old Age enjoyment share;—
Richards and *Kates* shall tell of thee,
Walters and *Janes* thy name declare.

7.

On themes like these, if yet there breathed
A Doric Lay so sweet as thine,
Might artless flowers of verse be wreathed
Around thy modest name to twine:—
And though nor lute nor lyre be mine
To bid thy minstrel honours live,
The praise my numbers can assign
It still is soothing thus to give.

8.

There needs, in truth, no lofty lyre
To yield thy Muse her homage due;
The praise her loveliest charms inspire
Should be as artless, simple too;
Her eulogist should keep in view
Thy meek and unassuming worth,
And inspiration should renew
At springs which gave thine own its birth.

9.

Those springs may boast no classic name
To win the smile of lettered pride,
Yet is their noblest charm the same
As that by *Castaly* supplied;
From *Aganippe*'s crystal tide
No brighter, fairer waves can start,
Than Nature's quiet teachings guide
From Feeling's fountain o'er the heart.

10.

'Tis to THE HEART Song's noblest power—
Taste's purest precepts must refer;
And *Nature's tact*, not *Art's* proud dower,
Remains its best interpreter:
He who shall trust, without demur,
What his own better feelings teach,
Although unlearned, shall seldom err,
But to the hearts of others reach.

11.

It is not quaint and local terms
Besprinkled o'er thy rustic lay,
Though well such dialect confirms
Its power unlettered minds to sway;
It is not these that most display
Thy sweetest charms, thy gentlest thrall,—
Words, phrases, fashions, pass away,
But TRUTH and NATURE live through all

12.

These, these have given thy rustic lyre
Its truest and its tenderest spell;
These amid Britain's tuneful choir
Shall give thy honoured name to dwell:
And when Death's shadowy curtain fell
Upon thy toilsome earthly lot,
With grateful joy thy heart might swell
To feel that these reproached thee not.

13.

How wise, how noble, was thy choice
To be the Bard of simple swains,—
In all their pleasures to rejoice,
And soothe with sympathy their pains;
To paint with feelings in thy strains
The themes their thoughts and tongues discuss,
And be, though free from classic chains,
Our own more chaste Theocritus.

14.

For this should Suffolk proudly own
Her grateful and her lasting debt;—
How much more proudly—had she known
That pining care, and keen regret,—
Thoughts which the fevered spirits fret,
And slow disease,—'twas thine to bear;—
And, ere thy sun of life was set,
Had won her Poet's grateful prayer.

15.

'Tis NOW TOO LATE! the scene is closed,
Thy conflicts borne—thy trials o'er;—
And in the peaceful grave reposed
That frame which pain shall rack no more:—

Peace to the Bard whose artless store
Was spread for Nature's humblest child;
Whose song, well meet for peasant lore,
Was lowly, simple, undefiled.

16.

Yet long may guileless hearts preserve
The memory of thy Verse, and thee:—
While Nature's healthful feelings nerve
The arm of labour toiling free,
While SUFFOLK PEASANTRY may be
Such as thy sweetest tales make *known*,—
By cottage-hearth, by greenwood tree,
Be BLOOMFIELD called, with pride, *their own!*

*19. 1823.—POPE PIUS VII DIED.

24.—SAINT BARTHOLOMEW.

The word Bartholomew means the son of Tolmai, or Tolomæus, the name of a family among the Jews, mentioned by Josephus. He preached the Gospel in Armenia, converted the Lycaonians, and afterwards visited India. Some authors assert that he was crucified, like St. Peter, with his head downwards; others, however, with more probability, say, that he was flayed alive, by order of Astyages, King of Armenia.—On the massacre of St. Bartholomew, see T. T. for 1821, p. 217.

*26. 1635.—LOPE DE VEGA DIED.

This celebrated Spanish poet was a native of Madrid. He is most known by the prodigious number of his writings. Twenty-one million three hundred thousand of his lines are said to be actually printed, and no less than *eighteen hundred* plays of his composition to have been acted on the stage. He nevertheless asserts, in one of his last poems,

The printed part, though far too large, is less
Than that which yet unprinted waits the press.

There does not now exist a fourth part of the works mentioned by himself and his admirers, yet enough remains to render him one of the most voluminous authors that ever put pen to paper. More than a hundred times, he composed a play, and produced it on the stage in twenty-four hours. Lope was of a

mild and amiable disposition, of very temperate habits, of great erudition, and extreme good breeding. His temper was never ruffled but with those who took snuff before company; with the grey who dyed their locks; with men who, born of women, spoke ill of the sex; with priests who believed in gipsies; and with persons who, without intentions of marriage, asked others their age. These antipathies, which are rather quaint sallies of wit than traits of character, are the only peculiarities which one of his intimate friends has thought proper to communicate. He was attached to horticultural pursuits, in which he found a pleasing recreation from his continual studies; indeed his frequent description of parterres and fountains seems to prove that his garden furnished him with ideas as well as vegetables and amusement.—Cervantes was, at one time, the rival of Lope: how different has been the judgment of posterity on the writings of these two men! The inimitable author of Don Quixote, who was actually starving in the same street where Lope was living in splendour and prosperity, has been for two centuries the delight of every nation in Europe; and Lope, notwithstanding an edition of his works in 22 vols., is, in a great degree, neglected in Spain.—*(Lord Holland's Life of Lope de Vega.)*

28.—SAINT AUGUSTINE.

Augustine was born at Thagaste, a town in Numidia, in the year 354. He was a judicious divine, and the most voluminous writer of all the Fathers. He died in 430, at the age of seventy-seven.

29.—JOHN BAPTIST BEHEADED.

This day was formerly denominated *Festum Collectionis Sancti Johannis Baptistæ;* or the feast of gathering up St. John the Baptist's relics; but afterwards, by corruption, *Festum Decollationis*, the festival in remembrance of his being beheaded. His nativity is celebrated on the 24th of June, which see. Consult also our last volume, p. 234.

Astronomical Occurrences

In AUGUST 1824.

The SUN is to us the most interesting of all the heavenly bodies: the heat which he diffuses animates the world, while the light he emits is the source of the purest of all our sensible pleasures.

Fairest of beings! first created light!
Prime cause of beauty! from thee alone
The sparkling gem, the vegetable race,
The nobler worlds that live and breathe, their charms,
The lovely hues peculiar to each tribe,
From thy unfailing source of splendour draw! MALLET.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Virgo at 17 m. after 6 in the morning of the 23d of this month; he will also ascend above the horizon, and sink below it, during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

August 1st,	Sun rises	18 m. after	4.	Sets at	42 m. past	7
6th,	.....	26	.....	4.	.....	34	.....	7
11th,	.....	35	.....	4.	.....	25	.....	7
16th,	.....	14	.....	4.	.....	16	.....	7
21st,	.....	53	.....	4.	.....	7	.....	7
26th,	.....	2	.....	5.	.....	58	.....	6
31st,	.....	11	.....	5.	.....	49	.....	6

Equation of Time.

To find mean time from apparent, the numbers in the following Table must be used as there directed.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

		m.	*s.*
Sunday, Aug. 1st, to the time by the dial	*add*	5	58
Friday,..... 6th,	.....	5	33
Wednesday, 11th,	.....	4	53
Monday, ... 16th,	.....	3	58
Saturday,... 21st,	.....	2	52
Thursday,... 26th,	.....	1	34
Tuesday,... 31st,	.....	0	6

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,	1st	day, at	55	m. after	9 in the evening
Full Moon, ...	9th	.....	32	.....	7 .....
Last Quarter,	17th	.....	32	.....	8 .....
New Moon, ...	24th	.....	27	.....	2 in the afternoon
First Quarter,	31st	.....	43	.....	8 in the morning

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

Such of our readers as may be desirous of observing the Moon's transits during this month, will find the most convenient times for observation in the following list: viz.

August	1st, at	25	after	5 in the evening
	2d, ...	18	.....	6 .....
	3d, ...	11	.....	7 .....
	4th, ...	4	.....	8 .....
	5th, ...	56	.....	8 .....
	6th, ...	47	.....	9 .....
	7th, ...	35	.....	10 .....
	8th, ...	20	.....	11 .....
	16th, ...	17	.....	4 in the morning
	17th, ...	6	.....	5 .....
	18th, ...	58	.....	5 .....
	19th, ...	55	.....	6 .....
	20th, ...	54	.....	7 .....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

This planet now appears precisely like the Full Moon, she having just passed through the point in which her whole disk is completely illuminated. It deserves to be remarked, however, that there will be but little difference in this respect from the beginning of May to the middle of October; more than $\frac{11}{12}$ths of her disk being illuminated during the whole of this period.

August 1st, { Illuminated part 11·99326
Dark part ..... 0·00674

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

As Jupiter now recedes more and more from the Sun, the eclipses of his satellites gradually reappear;

yet none of them can be seen this month, even with the best telescopes.

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*
Mercury	0 30 *aft.*	0 52	1 8	1 20	1 28
Venus	0 5 *aft.*	0 11	0 18	0 24	0 30
Mars	4 50 *aft.*	4 40	4 31	4 23	4 16
Jupiter	11 9 *mor.*	10 51	10 33	10 16	10 0
Saturn	7 32 *mor.*	7 10	6 49	6 28	6 8
G. Sidus	10 13 *night*	9 44	9 20	8 58	8 34
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	56°11′	52°13′	47°56′	43°36′	39°26′
Venus	57 24	55 22	53 4	53 32	47 47
Mars	27 40	26 20	25 0	23 42	22 25
Jupiter	59 39	59 24	59 9	58 54	58 38
Saturn	57 55	57 39	58 2	58 5	58 7
G. Sidus	15 13	15 12	15 11	15 10	15 9

Conjunction of the Moon with the Stars.

August 21st, with ♑ in Gemini ... at 0 m. after 2 in the afternoon
30th, ... ☽ in Scorpio .... 0 ..... 7 in the evening

On the evening of the 6th of this month there will be an occultation of Georgium Sidus by the Moon. The immersion will take place at 57 m. 15 s. past 9, at 9¼′ north of the Moon's centre; and the emersion at 9 m. 30 s. after 11, and at 4¼′ north of the same centre. Mercury will be in conjunction with α in Leo at 6 in the evening of the 7th; and Venus will also be in conjunction with the same star at 9 in the morning of the 15th. Mercury will also be in conjunction with β in Virgo at 7 in the evening of the 24th; and Mars with 2α in Libra at 4 in the afternoon of the 28th. Saturn will likewise be in quadrature at 15 m. past midnight of the 30th.

If, during the calmness and serenity of night, when the Sun has sunk beneath the western horizon, and the Moon withdraws the mild radiance of her

presence from the scene, we raise our eyes to the azure vault of heaven, bespangled with ten thousand suns, what an awful solemnity insensibly steals over the reflecting mind! Thus musing amidst so many wonders, it is almost impossible not to catch something of the poet's fire, and exclaim,

> How distant some of the nocturnal suns!
> So distant, says the sage, 'twere not absurd
> To doubt, if beams, set out at Nature's birth,
> Are yet arrived at this so foreign world;
> Though nothing half so rapid as their flight.
> An eye of awe and wonder let me roll,
> And roll for ever. Who can satiate sight
> In such a scene, in such an ocean wide
> Of deep astonishment? Where depth, heighth, breadth,
> Are lost in their extremes; and where to count
> The thick-sown glories in this field of fire,
> Perhaps a seraph's computation fails. YOUNG.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS.

[Continued from p. 178.]

CAPRICORNUS (♑), *the Sea Goat.*

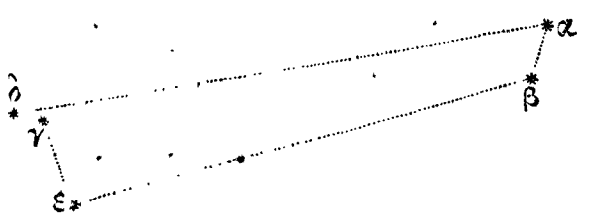
THIS is the first of the winter signs, and the fourth on the south side of the equator. It is therefore the tenth in the ecliptic, and is entered by the Sun on the 21st of December, the time of the winter solstice. At this time the Earth being in the opposite point of the heavens, passes from Gemini to Cancer. The Sun being on this day vertical to the tropic of Capricorn, the southern hemisphere has the same light which the northern hemisphere had when the Sun was on the tropic of Cancer on the 21st of June. It is consequently the noon of the south polar day, and midnight at the north pole.

In the Egyptian zodiac the Sea Goat is held in a string by their god *Anubis;* and in those of Dendera and Esné, the symbol is half goat and half fish. Some variation occurs in the oriental zodiacs, but the general opinion of the antients, especially the Greeks, is, that it was of Egyptian origin; but

the antient fables respecting it afford no satisfactory account of the etymology of the name which it bears. Capricorn is bounded on the north and east by Antinous and Aquarius; on the south by Piscis Australis, and on the west by Sagittarius. It contains 51 stars; three of which are of the 3d magnitude, and three of the 4th. The star α in the Goat's forehead, which is one of those of the 3d magnitude, rises nearly on the east south east $\frac{1}{4}$ east point of the compass, at London. Its right ascension at the beginning of the present year is 302° 4′ 11″; its declination 13° 4′ 57″; and meridian altitude 25° 25′ 3″. The same star also rose and culminated at London, on the 1st of each month during 1820, as in the following Table.

	Rose.		*Culminated.*			*Rose.*		*Culminated.*	
	h. *m.*		*h.* *m.*			*h.* *m.*		*h.* *m.*	
January	8 30	*mor.*	1 25	*aft.*	July.....	8 37	*aft.*	1 30	*mor.*
February	6 14	.....	11 10	*mor.*	August.	6 40	.....	11 25	*aft.*
March....	4 25	.....	9 20	.....	Sept.....	4 45	.....	9 30	.....
April.....	2 30	.....	7 20	.....	October	2 58	.....	7 40	.....
May.....	0 45	*aft.*	5 30	.....	Novemb.	1 0	.....	5 45	.....
June.....	10 35	.....	3 28	.....	Decemb.	10 45	*mor.*	3 45	.....

This sign is distinguished in the heavens by five stars, two of which, α and β, are situated in one of the horns and forehead, and the other three, δ, γ and ε, are placed in the fishy tail. If these be supposed to be joined by dotted lines, they will form the following diagram.



If a line be drawn from Vega, west of Altair, and produced towards the south, it will pass through α and β; α is also a double star, and β is about three degrees south of it.

When Capricorn rises at the point just specified, Corona Borealis is from 10 to 25 degrees south of the zenith; the meridian is divided by Libra and Scorpio; Cancer sinks in the west north west, and Perseus is on the northern horizon, while Pegasus and Aquarius are on the eastern verge of the heavens. When Capricorn comes to the meridian, the Hyades rise on the east north east point of the horizon; the Pointers are north north west; Coma Berenices sets north west; Arcturus is west north west; and Cygnus is in the zenith: while Capricorn sinks below the west south west point of the horizon, Andromeda, Cassiopeia, and Perseus, encompass the zenith; Orion appears in the east south east, and Leo in the north east; Algol, Aldebaran, and Rigel, are nearly in a line passing from the zenith to the south east by east point of the compass; while Lyra is between the zenith and the north west. Such are the positions of the principal constellations with respect to Capricorn, as he rises, culminates, and sets, to an observer in the vicinity of London.

[To be continued.]

The Naturalist's Diary

For AUGUST 1824.

The opening flowers in the early breeze
Perfuming every plain,
And wild birds, singing in the beechen trees,
Proclaim sweet Summer's reign.

The golden clouds in the azure sky,
As they float o'er sea and earth,
And tinge each wave, as each cloud flits by,
Declare sweet Summer's birth.

The mower rests oft o'er his glittering scythe,
And, encircled, loves to tell,
Ere the Sun reached noon, how many fields blythe
'Neath his shining weapon fell.

The REAPERS ensheath their sickles now,
And yield to rustic mirth,
And, clust'ring 'neath some spreading bough,
Each sings sweet Summer's birth.

Loved season of joy, thou'rt dear to me;
For the rose that decks the hair
Of my love, is called to life by thee,
And nurs'd with thy fondest care.

You lend the healthful tinge to the cheek,
And gladden the sunken eye;
And lessons of joy and wisdom speak
To man, in each passing sigh.

You show us how swift, 'neath a sunny smile,
Your treasures countless shower;
How they blossom, and ripen, and flourish awhile,
And die in the self-same hour.

Then Winter steals on, and flings to the wind
Each blossom profusely shed;
Nor leaves of thy glory a vestige behind,
But ruthless treads o'er thy head.

Oh! thus does man flourish, and blossom as proud
As thou in thy speedy decay:
TIME turns but his glass, and Death from the crowd
Thus steals the frail tenant away.

RICHARD RYAN.

THE various sorts of grain are generally ripened in this month by the powerful influence of the solar rays[1]. Homer, whose descriptions of nature are equally correct and beautiful, frequently characterizes different countries by the various productions peculiar to them. One he has celebrated for the grape, another for the olive, a third for the laurel, a fourth for the palm; but to the earth he has given the general epithet of corn-bearing. No appellation could be more appropriate. Corn is the produce of almost every soil and climate. Even amid the rugged rocks of Finland, as high as the sixty-first degree of north latitude, crops of barley are frequently to be met with, luxuriant as those which clothed the fertile plains of Sicily. Trees are generally adapted for the sites they occupy: the willow delights in marshy

[1] Sometimes, however, the harvest is protracted till the middle or latter end of September: and while we are now writing (August 1823) cold winds, and sudden showers of rain, with a few occasional gleams of sunshine, give to this month more the character of spring than of summer.

places, and will scarcely flourish in any other; the cypress of Louisiana stands with its roots in the water; whilst the fir grows best in elevated stations. Flowers are also suited in their various constructions to different soils and seasons; but the corn plant may be termed a citizen of the vegetable world. The roots are long and ramified; consequently they are seldom liable to be uprooted by the wind, while at the same time they draw considerable moisture from the earth in arid situations.

Cicero remarks that the ear of corn is generally surmounted with little beards, which do not defend the ripened grain from the depredations of birds, but are, apparently, designed as so many roofs to shelter them from the rain, without excluding the beneficial influence of air and light.

The Romans peopled their fields with imaginary deities, each of whom presided over the corn in every state of growth and preparation. Sterculus directed the manuring, Occatur the harrowing, and Sator the sowing; Seia watched the seed while it remained in the earth; and, when the blade sprung up, Runcina directed the weeding: Robigus warded off both blasts and mildew: the joints of the stalks were guarded by Nodosus; and Volusia folded the tender blade around the ear. When the wheat began to blossom, Flora presided over it with guardian care; Patelina watched it on emerging from the spot; Hostilina observed that the ears grew long and even; and, when fully ripe, it was the office of Matura to guard it from every threatened danger.

Many antient superstitions appear to have originated from the best feelings of the heart. The Roman husbandmen must have often felt that their utmost care was insufficient to bring to maturity the fruits of the earth, unless the operations of nature accorded with their own. Hence arose in them a feeling of gratitude to some unknown cause; and, as they were unacquainted with that Being '*who visiteth*

the earth, and blesseth it, who maketh it very plenteous, who watereth her furrows, and sendeth rain into the little valleys thereof, who maketh it soft with showers, and blesseth the increase of it; who crowneth the year with his goodness, while his clouds drop fatness; making the valleys stand so thick with corn that they laugh and sing,'—they naturally concluded that subordinate agents were necessary to perfect the progress of the blade. Higher feelings should arise spontaneously in the bosom of the Christian, when he thinks

> How good the God of Nature is to him,
> Who sheds abundance o'er his flowing fields.

The great Author of our religion continually exemplified the important truths which he delivered, by a reference to natural objects; those especially of pasturage and husbandry, as peculiarly calculated to make an impression on the mind. A harvest-field was by him compared to the world, in which both bad and good are permitted, under the similitude of tares and wheat, to grow together: angels are the reapers; and the solemn day of final retribution is the gathering of the wheat into the garner. Even the solitary blade, which springs by the way-side, or grows upon a rock, or brings forth abundantly in rich and cultivated soil, though unnoticed by the casual observer, speaks in forcible language to the ear of the Christian. It also tells of the resurrection and the life: '*For verily, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground, and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit*'.[1]

The time of commencing the harvest and the manner of taking it vary in different districts, as the ceremonies, now almost extinct, which are observed at its conclusion.—See our last volume, p. 243, for an account of the manner in which Harvest-home is celebrated in Italy.

[1] Wonders of the Vegetable Kingdom displayed.

About the 11th of August, the puffin (*alca arctica*) migrates; and soon afterwards the swift disappears, probably winging its way to more southern regions. Young broods of goldfinches (*fringilla carduelis*) are now seen; lapwings (*tringa vanellus*) and linnets (*fringilla linota*) congregate; the nuthatch chatters.

At the beginning of this month, melilot (*trifolium officinale*), rue (*ruta graveolens*), the water-parsnip (*sysimbrium nasturtium*), horehound (*marrubium vulgare*), water-mint (*mentha aquatica*), the orpine (*sedum telephium*), and the *gentiana amarella*, have their flowers full blown. The purple blossoms of the meadow saffron (*colchicum autumnale*) adorn the low, moist lands.

The *geranium* tribe now add to the beauty of the garden, and many pretty species also decorate our sunny banks; the malvaceous order, and the spurges (*euphorbia*), bearing the seed always elevated on the flower, are seen in great variety. The *genista* or broom flowers in this month; and the common flax (*linum usitatissimum*), with its pretty pale blue flowers, while it is allowed to ornament the garden, reminds us of *utility* as well as beauty. The *sun-flower* rears its stately head. See our last volume, p. 245, for some lines by Lord Thurlow. The common blue passion flower (*passiflora cærulea*), which flowers from June to October, may, in the general dearth of flowers, be introduced to our notice in August. All the species of this beautiful and numerous genus are natives of America, and require the protection of the green-house, or stove, except the above, which is somewhat tender. The flower was originally named *Flos Passionis*, till altered by Linnæus. The five stamens have been compared to the five wounds of Christ; the three styles to the nails by which he was fixed to the cross; the column which elevates the germ to the cross itself, or to the pillar to which he was bound; and the rays of the nectary

to the crown of thorns. This flower is a native of Brazil, and was first introduced into this country in the year 1669.

The PASSION-FLOWER.

Yon mystic flower, with gold and azure bright,
Whose stem luxuriant speaks a vigorous root,
Unfolds her blossoms to the morn's salute,
That close and die in the embrace of night.
No luscious *fruits* the cheated taste invite—
Her short-lived blossoms, ere they lead to fruit,
Demand a genial clime, and suns that shoot
Their rays direct, with undiminished light.
Thus HOPE, the passion-flower of human life,
Whose wild luxuriance mocks the pruner's knife,
Profuse in promise, makes a like display
Of evanescent blooms—that last a day!
To cheer the mental eye, no more is given:
The FRUIT is only to be found—in HEAVEN!

DR. EDMUND CARTWRIGHT.

Insects now abound, and afford a never-failing source of amusement and instruction to the inquiring entomologist. That beautiful little blue butterfly (*papilio argus*) is now all life and activity, fluttering from flower to flower in the grass with remarkable vivacity: there seems to be a constant rivalship and contention between this beauty, and the not less elegant little bean *papilio phlæas*.—See T.T. for 1822, p. 238, and T.T. for 1820, p. 205.

To a BUTTERFLY *resting on a* SKULL.

Creature of air and light,
Emblem of that which may not fade or die!
Wilt thou not speed thy flight
To chase the south-wind through the sunny sky?
What lures thee thus to stay
With Silence and Decay,
Fixed on the wreck of dull Mortality?

The thoughts once chambered there
Have gathered up their treasures, and are gone!
—Will the dust tell us where
They that have burst the prison-house are flown?
Rise, nurseling of the Day,
If thou wouldst trace their way!
Earth has no voice to make the secret known!

Who seeks the vanished bird
By the forsaken nest and broken shell?
Far thence he sings unheard,
Yet free and joyous midst the woods to dwell!
—Thou, of the sunshine born,
Take the bright wings of morn!
Thy hope calls heavenward from you ruined cell!
Literary Gazette.

The harvest-bug (*acarus ricinus*), in this and the following month, proves a very troublesome and disagreeable insect, particularly in some of the southern counties of England. The best cure for the bite is *hartshorn*. Flies now abound, and torment both men and animals with their perpetual buzzing.—*Wasps* also become very troublesome.—See T.T. for 1822, p. 240.

For these temporary annoyances, however, we are in some measure compensated by the presence of the *lady-bird*, and the *glow-worm*; the first for its *utility* (see our last volume, p. 248), and the second for the *beautiful effect* it produces:—

Innocent as is the light
The *glow-worm* hangs out to allure
Her mate to her green bower at night[1].

Much amusement may be derived, in this month, from searching for insects among the weeds thrown up in clearing ponds. Among these will be found the larvæ of the *phryganea*, or caddis-fly. It inhabits the bottom of ponds, forming itself cases of a singular shape. Their construction is very various. Some select four or five pieces of the leaves of grass, which they glue together into a shapely polygonal case; others employ portions of the stems of rushes placed side by side so as to form an elegant fluted cylinder; some arrange round them pieces of leaves like a spiral-rolled riband; others form their abode of minute pieces of wood. The case of *p. bimaculata* is pyriform, and is less artificially constructed of

[1] See some beautiful lines on the Glow-worm, by the Rev. J. Black, in our last volume, p. 247, *note*.

a mixture of mud and sand. The perfect insect resembles the moth; it has four wings, and the body of some has two long projecting bristles.

The solitary bee (*apis manicata*), and the white moth (*phalæna pacta*), are observed in this month: the *ptinus pectinicornis* also makes its appearance, the larvæ of which are very destructive to wooden furniture, boring holes in tables, chairs, bed-posts, &c.

The southern counties of England, particularly Surrey and Kent, yield their valuable produce of *hops* in this month.

SEPTEMBER.

SEPTEMBER is composed of *septem*, seven, and the termination *ber*, like *lis* in *Aprilis, Quintilis, Sextilis*. This rule will also apply to the three following months, Octo-ber, Novem-ber, Decem-ber.

Remarkable Days

In SEPTEMBER 1824.

1.—SAINT GILES.

GILES, or Ægidius, was born at Athens, but, after he had disposed of his patrimony in charitable uses, came to France in the year 715. He lived two years with Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles, and afterwards retired into solitude.

2.—LONDON BURNT.

The fire of London broke out on Sunday morning, September 2d, 1666, O.S.; and being impelled by strong winds, raged with irresistible fury nearly four days and nights; nor was it entirely mastered till the fifth morning after it began.—See an interesting narrative of the fire of London, by an eye-witness, in T.T. for 1820, pp. 213-219.

*3. 1669.—VILLEGAS DIED.

Villegas was the first that introduced Anacreontics in Spanish poetry, and, in spite of their defects, his Cantilenas and Monostrophes are read with delight, and remain imprinted on the minds of youth. The cause of this is, that there is vivacity in them, playfulness, grace, and cadence, which are the qualities that characterise this class of compositions, charming alike the imagination and the ear. His longer verses have not had equal success, because their ease, their harmony, and learning, do not compensate for the dissatisfaction caused by affectation, pedantry, and want of enthusiasm, for the violent transpositions, vicious modes of speech, and, lastly, the ringing changes and puerile antitheses in which they abound. (*Wiffen's Essay on Spanish Poetry*, prefixed to his Translation of *Garcilasso's Works.*)—See p. 123 of this volume, for a beautiful version of some sapphics 'To Zephyr,' by Villegas.

7.—SAINT EUNERCHUS.

Eunerchus, or Evortius, was Bishop of Orleans, and present at the council of Valentia, A.D. 375. The circumstances of his election to this see were considered as miraculous, and principally ascribed to a dove, which alighted upon his head in consequence of the prayers of the electors.

8.—NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

A concert of angels having been heard in the air to solemnize this important event, the festival was appointed by Pope Servius about the year 695. Innocent IV honoured this feast with an octave in 1244, and Gregory XI, about the year 1370, with a vigil.

14.—HOLY CROSS.

This festival was first observed in the year 615, on the following occasion: Cosroes, King of Persia, having plundered Jerusalem, carried away large pieces of the cross which had been left there by the Empress Helena. Heraclius, the emperor, soon afterwards engaged and defeated him, and recovered

the cross; but, bringing it back in triumph to Jerusalem, he found the gates shut against him, and heard a voice from heaven, saying, that the *King of Kings* did not enter into that city in so stately a manner, but *meek and lowly, and riding upon an ass.* The emperor then immediately dismounted from his horse, and walked through the city barefooted, carrying the cross himself. The ceremony of *kissing the cross* is performed in the Greek Church on this day; see T.T. for 1822, p. 245; and an account of the *Cross of the South*, with some be utiful lines by Mrs. Hemans, in our last volume, p. 257.

15, 17, 18.—EMBER DAYS. *See* p. 66.

17.—SAINT LAMBERT.

Lambert was Bishop of Utrecht, in the time of King Pepin I; but, reproving the king's grandson for his irregularities, he was cruelly murdered at the instigation of an abandoned woman. Being canonized, he obtained, at first, only a simple commemoration in the calendar; but Robert Bishop of Leeds, in a general chapter of the Cistercian order, procured a solemn feast to his honour in the church in 1240.

21.—SAINT MATTHEW.

In the year 64 or 65, Matthew wrote his Gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek. After many labours and miracles, he closed his life at Nadabar, in Ethiopia, probably by martyrdom.—For an account of some civic ceremonies in London, on this day, see T. T. for 1822, p. 245.

*23. 1823.—MATTHEW BAILLIE, M.D., DIED, ÆT. 62.

He was the brother of Joanna Baillie; and nephew, by his mother, to the celebrated John and William Hunter. Thus connected with what is most respectable in literature and medicine, he was himself distinguished in both. His book on the *Morbid Anatomy of the Human Body*, published in 1798, and which has passed through several editions; his other medical works, and his frequent and valuable contributions

to the best scientific publications of the period, rank him high as a professional and literary character.—His practice was, like his reputation, universal: it had no bounds but the inability of his physical powers to do more than he did. He was consulted by none more anxiously than by his own learned brethren; and this we take to be the true criterion of great and acknowledged skill. Indeed, he may justly be said to have been at the head of his profession.

Like many of his contemporaries (and we have pleasure in stating it to his and their honour), his liberality was equal to his judgment. Often were lucrative engagements with the exalted and wealthy deferred in order to afford time for visiting the low and poor, and alleviating the sufferings of those who added not one fee to the humanely-acquired fortunes of the physician. Of this, though unacquainted with Dr. MATTHEW BAILLIE, we have known so many instances as to confirm us in the belief that such were his general habits—shall we say sacrifices? No; for he had his reward even here, in the esteem of all good men, and in the gratitude of beings rescued from death, and the deeper gratitude of those who loved them, saved from deeper misery. Let this be his memory. His example need hardly be held up; for our experience of life teaches us to repeat, that in all the liberal professions there is none where such a lesson is less needed than among the most distinguished physicians in London.

26.—OLD HOLY ROOD. *See* HOLY CROSS, p. 236.

26.—SAINT CYPRIAN.

He was an African by birth, of a good family, and well educated. He behaved with great courage and resolution in the Decian persecution, and openly invited the people to constancy and perseverance: this conduct so enraged the Pagans, that he soon fell a victim to their fury, and suffered martyrdom under Valerianus and Gallienus, in 258.

29.—SAINT MICHAEL.

Saint Michael was an archangel who presided over the Jewish nation, and had an army of angels under his command and conduct; he fought also with the Dragon or Satan, and his angels; and, contending with the Devil, he disputed about the body of Moses. See Rev. xii, 7; Jude 9.—This was formerly a season of great celebrity: at present, all that we do in honour of it is to *eat a goose*.—See our last vol. p. 262.

30.—SAINT JEROME.

Jerome was born in a town called Stridon, on the confines of Pannonia and Dalmatia. He translated the Old Testament into Latin; and died in the eightieth year of his age, A.D. 422.

*SEP. 1822.—LIEUT. COL. WILFORD DIED.

By this event the community of letters in the East have sustained a great loss. This eminent scholar has been long celebrated as a most learned and indefatigable cultivator of the Asiatic history and literature of the Hindoos. He was one of the earliest members of the Asiatic Society, and distinguished himself by his contributions to their researches.

Astronomical Occurrences

In SEPTEMBER 1824.

Look not up with envy to those above thee. Sounding titles, stately buildings, fine gardens, gilded chariots, rich equipages; what are they? They dazzle every one but the possessor. To him that is accustomed to them, they are cheap and regardless things: they supply him not with brighter images or more sublime satisfactions than the plain man may have, whose small estate may just enable him to support the charge of a simple unencumbered life. He enters heedless into his rooms of state, as you or I do under our poor sheds. The noble paintings and costly furniture are lost on him; he sees them not: as how can it be otherwise, when, by custom, a FABRIC infinitely more grand and finished, that of the UNIVERSE, stands unobserved by the inhabitants, and the *everlasting lamps of Heaven* are lighted up in vain, for any notice that mortals take of them.—*Spectator*, No. 626.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Libra at 57 m. after 2 in the morning of the 23d of this month; and he rises and sets during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

September 1st,	Sun rises	13	m. after	5.	Sets	47	m. past 6
6th,	.....	23	.....	5	.....	37	 6
11th,	.....	33	.....	5	.....	27	 6
16th,	.....	42	.....	5	.....	18	 6
21st,	.....	52	.....	5	.....	8	 6
26th,	.....	2	.....	6	.....	58	 5

Equation of Time.

When apparent time is known, and mean time required, the one will be found from the other by using the numbers as directed in the following Table. If it be for any other periods than those inserted below, the quantity to be used must be found by proportion, as already explained.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

			m.	s.
Wednesday, Sept.	1st,	from the time by the dial *subt.*	0	12
Monday, ...	6th,	.....	1	50
Saturday, ...	11th,	.....	3	32
Thursday, ...	16th,	.....	5	17
Tuesday, ...	21st,	.....	7	2
Sunday, ...	26th,	.....	8	45

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon, ...	8th day,	at	39 m. after	11	in the morning
Last Quarter,	16th, ...		17	7	.....
New Moon, ...	22d, ...		27	10	at night
First Quarter,	29th, ...		32	11	.....

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits of the Moon have been selected this month, as affording the best opportunities of observation, should the weather prove suitable; viz.

September	1st, at	58	m. after	6	in the evening
	2d, ...	49	.....	7	.....
	3d, ...	38	.....	8	.....
	4th, ...	25	.....	9	.....
	5th, ...	9	.....	10	.....
	6th, ...	51	.....	10	.....
	7th, ...	33	.....	11	.....

September	15th, ... 55	4	in the morning
	16th, ... 52	5	.....
	17th, ... 50	6	.....
	18th, ... 48	7	.....
	19th, ... 45	8	.....
	28th, ... 59	4	in the evening
	29th, ... 53	5	.....
	30th, ... 43	6	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Venus still continues to resemble a full Moon, though her position with respect to the Sun and the Earth renders her less brilliant than when a smaller part of the disk is illuminated.

Sept. 1st, { Illuminated part 11·86670
Dark part..... 0·13330

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

There will be no less than thirty-seven eclipses of these small bodies this month, yet only two of those of the first satellite are visible at Greenwich. These are,

Immersions.

14th day, at 59 m. 15 s. after 2 in the morning
21st, ... 53 ... 1 ..... 4 .....

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*
Mercury	1 34 *aft.*	1 35	1 29	1 15	0 29
Venus	0 37 *aft.*	0 42	0 48	0 53	0 59
Mars	4 8 *aft.*	4 3	3 57	3 53	3 49
Jupiter	9 40 *mor.*	9 23	9 6	8 49	8 32
Saturn	5 44 *mor.*	5 23	5 2	4 40	4 18
G. Sidus	8 9 *night*	7 45	7 24	7 4	6 42
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	34°53′	31°33′	29° 0′	27°42′	28°21′
Venus	44 45	41 24	38 20	35 16	32 13
Mars	20 59	19 49	18 42	17 41	16 45
Jupiter	58 20	58 4	57 48	57 33	57 18
Saturn	58 8	58 9	58 9	58 9	58 7
G. Sidus	15 9	15 8	15 8	15 8	15 8

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Sept. 3d,	with G. Sidus at	0 m. after	3 in the morning
17th, ...	♂ in Gemini	0	11 at night
24th, ...	Mercury ...	0	4 in the morning
27th, ...	♂ in Scorpio..	0	3 .....
30th, ...	G. Sidus....	0	10 .....

Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 7th of this month. Jupiter will be in conjunction with ♂ in Cancer at 11 at night, on the 17th. Saturn will be stationary on the 19th, and both Mercury and Georgium Sidus on the following day; and Mars will be in conjunction with ♂ in Scorpio at 1 in the morning of the 23d.

As the intensity of Summer declines, and the reaper gathers in his bosom the sheaves which his bounty has strewed over the plain, or joyously bears them to the garner, few objects present more silent majesty, or more deeply affect the mind of the attentive observer with a sense of the goodness and bounty of Providence, than the full-orbed Moon slowly rising amid the parting day, upon such a scene. We have only to call to mind one of those autumnal evenings, when we have witnessed yonder azure canopy partially overspread with the silver drapery of fleecy clouds, to enter into the spirit of, and enjoy, the following lines:—

The MOON. *Il Frenetico.*

My mind is full of many wanderings,
Past thoughts, that come like shadows from their graves,
Dissolving as we clasp them,—sudden sounds,
That have no touch of earthly minstrelsy,
But seem to fall bathed in the honey dews,
And soft as starlight; yet within the brain
Waking strange fantasies, and then they fly,
And leave me feeding on my melancholy.
Twilight is gone at last, and night is come,
To torture me. And now its herald wind
Comes gushing chilly thro' my prison bars.
I hate thee! yet thou'rt lovely to Earth's slaves:
To the tired sea-boy nestling in the shrouds;—
The soldier loves thee, weary from his march,
And longing to unbuckle his harnessry;

The o'erlaboured peasant feels thee full of life,
And thy dim clouds stoop down, a covering
Of genial slumber on his quiet bed.
But to the brain of visions, to torn hearts
Mouldering, like embers that yet feed their flame,
Mother of spectres, thou'rt a fearful thing.

* * *

But light is stealing dimly thro' my cell,
Streak upon streak, like ebon ivory-lined,
The Moon has risen. How glorious thro' the clouds
She sweeps her way, a bark magnificent,
Careering lonely thro' a silver sea.
Now the white billow hides her—now she rolls
Free thro' a sapphire depth; anon a ring
Swells round her, swiftly tinged with widening hues
Of watery pearl, and the white blowing rose,
As if her prow had plunged, and chafed the blue
Of that celestial ocean into foam.

* * *

I feel as if strong pinions on my feet
Were lifting me from earth: I see the Moon
Expanding as I rise. 'Tis lovelier now,
Tho' seen but from mid air. Long emerald hues
Mingled with purple, and the sapphire light
That beams from evening waters, image there
Bowers of bright beauty, solemn glades, soft hills
Empurpled with the mantle of rich blooms
That know no time of fading, crystal lakes
Fanned but by musky gales those sweet buds breathe.
Thou art no pilgrim-bark thro' heavenly seas;
But a soft lower paradise, to soothe
The spirits of the innocent, ere they pass
Before the loftier throne. Here rest, sweet babes
That looked but upon earth, and wept and died,—
Maids that like May-dew shone, and were exhaled;—
High hearts that died of unrequited love,
As myrtle blossoms, dropt without a wind:
Disastrous patriots, fallen before they won
The desperate field,—their laurels plucked, not wreathed
Bards, that with nature's touch awoke the harp,
Yet won not the world's ear, till on their graves
That sweet harp echoed, drawing useless tears.

* * *

I've reached thee now. Thou art no Paradise,
Where injured Spirits brighten for high Heaven;
Thou art a lonely throne; thy canopy
Veils the resplendent Angel of our world.
A thousand seraphs in their circles wait
On Him, the Servant of a mightier One.

Literary Gazette.

The Naturalist's Diary

For SEPTEMBER 1824.

September's morn and eve are chill,
Reminding us that Time rolls on;
And Winter, though delaying still
His withered features, woe-begone,
On day's decreasing length encroaching,
Gives token of his sure approaching. B. BARTON.

VARIOUS of the feathered tribe now commence their autumnal music; among these, the thrush, the blackbird, and the woodcock, are conspicuous. Our old friend the *robin*, also, now delights us with his simple notes, reminding us of the approach of winter, and of his intended daily visits to our parlour window; recalling to our minds the days of innocence and childhood, when we listened to his strains with unalloyed pleasure—curiously contemplated his 'crimson stomacher'—and fed him with crumbs from our table.

Yes; while I listen to thy lay,
Thought's hidden stream again seems stirred
By breezes, which were wont to play
Over its current's dimpled course,
As once it flowed so sweetly wild,
In happy childhood, when its source
Was by no worthless weeds defiled.

For *then* thy song to me expressed
All I conceived of harmony;
And the red plumage of thy breast
Was beautiful to childhood's eye.
While tales, by infancy held dear,
Of funeral rites by thee performed,
Made, what was music to my ear,
A spell that deeper feelings warmed[1]. B. BARTON.

In this month *sparrows* collect in large flights, and frequent corn-fields near villages; but these assemblages are soon reduced by birds of prey, and the artifices of boys: there are but few animals which

[1] Napoleon and other Poems, pp. 122, 123.

associate with, and are found only in society with man, but this is entirely the case with the house-sparrow, and it is the only bird that will follow him into crowded cities, and live with him contented the whole year through, unmindful of smoke and noise: He seems almost dependant upon the human race: we find him an inhabitant of the first farm-house which is erected in a new and distant inclosure; he builds, he feeds, he sleeps with man.

The common mouse *(mus domesticus)* is another animal that looks to man for support; the other species of the genus are foragers of our gardens and fields. Supported by the universal bounty of nature, they store up provender for a winter's supply, seeking with us only occasional shelter; but the house-mouse never leaves our premises entirely, and seems to exist only upon food of our providing: in towns his appetite accommodates itself to the variety of sustenance he finds; in the country he will ransack our pantries, or live in the barn upon corn: in all cases he seems solely dependant upon man, and will even quit a residence when abandoned by him. The common house-fly (*musca carnaria*) is another creature that appears to be domesticated with us, in some seasons a very numerous, and always a very dirty inmate: it associates in our windows, in autumn, with an insect much like itself, that active fly *stomoxys*, which basks upon stones and posts, and attacks our legs with such teazing perseverance before rain; but this has not the same attachment to our habitations, nor does it unite in those little social parties that employ themselves for hours in a sober uniformity of flight beneath the ceilings of our chambers.

It is well known that the progressive motion of the *house-fly* can be carried on in opposition to gravity, but the principle upon which it does so has not been explained, because the animal is too small for the feet to be anatomically investigated. The late Sir

Joseph Banks was the first who described an animal of a much larger size endowed with the same power, a native of Java, the *lacerta gecko*, which is in the habit of coming out of an evening from the roofs of the houses, and walking down the smooth hard polished chunam walls in search of flies that settle upon them, and then running up again. He procured Sir Everard Home a specimen of a very large size, which enabled him to ascertain the peculiar mechanism by which the feet of this animal can keep their hold of a smooth, hard perpendicular wall, and carry up so large a weight as that of its own body. The anatomy of the foot of this lizard is so constructed, as to enable it to produce a number of small concavities which act like so many cupping-glasses, and atmospheric pressure retains him in this position. It appears then, upon a subsequent examination of the structure of the fly's foot, that it possessed similar concave surfaces capable of acting in the same manner as those of the lacerta gecko, and therefore its progressive motion against gravity was effected by the same means.

Herrings *(clupea)* pay their annual visit to England in September, and afford a rich harvest to the inhabitants of its eastern and western coasts. Although *Flora* is not lavish of her beauties in this month, she still presents specimens worthy of our admiration. There are in blow, in September, hearts-ease, nasturtia, china aster, marigolds, sweet peas, mignionette, golden rod, stocks, tangier pea, holly hock, michaelmas daisy, saffron (*crocus sativus*), and ivy (*hedera helix*). Our friend Bernard, in his 'Napoleon and other Poems,' in unison with the feelings of every admirer of beautiful poetry, has addressed some congratulatory lines to MRS. HEMANS, whose elegant productions [1] deserve to be better known than they

[1] See her fine lines to the Ivy in T.T. for 1822, p. 25.

are; and, as the bard wreathes an IVY CROWN for the fair poetess, composed

Of verdant foliage—'never sere,'
Of glossy and of changeless hue,

some few lines from the address, will not, we trust, be considered inappropriate:—

—Can those flowers, that bloom to fade,
For thee a fitting wreath appear?
No! wear thou then the ivy-braid,
Whose leaves are never sere!
It is not gloomy; brightly play
The sun-beams on its glossy green;
And softly on it sleeps the ray
Of moonlight, all screne.

It changes not, as seasons flow
In changeful, silent course along;
Spring finds it verdant, leaves it so;
It outlives Summer's song:
Autumn no wan or russet stain
Upon its fadeless glory flings;
And Winter o'er it sweeps in vain,
With tempest on his wings.

The flowering rush (*britomus umbellatus*), smallage (*apium graveolens*), and the great burnet saxifrage (*pimpinella magna*), which, as a cosmetic, is inferior to none, freckles being quickly removed by it, are now in flower. Those elegantly twining and ornamental plants the *convolvuli*, or bind weeds, adorn almost every hedge with their milk-white blossoms; which, contrasted with the shining scarlet berries of the solanum dulcamara, seen in profusion at the same time, give a pretty appearance to the hedges; while over the ground beneath are scattered the yellow flowers of the toad flax (*antirrhinum linaria*), with *scilla autumnalis*, and the interesting flowers of the *epilobium angustifolium*. The officinal marsh-mallow (*althæa officinalis*) is also in flower. The woolly excrescences now found on the dog-rose (*rosa canina*), sometimes called *spongia rosæ*, *bedegna*, or *bedeguar*, are formed by a small fly (*cynips rosæ*), which, piercing the tender bud with its sting, sheds a drop of liquid, toge-

ther with its eggs. The privet hawk-moth (*sphinx ligustri*) may now be found on the privet shrub, and its elegant appearance affords a contrast to the uninviting form of many of the caterpillar tribe. It is about two inches and a half long, and one inch and a half in circumference. Its body is smooth, and of a light green colour, with diagonal streaks of dark lilac and white on each side of every ringlet. Its head is brown and horny, and has at the tail a black spur projecting upwards. This is an agreeable object on which we may observe the insect transformations. Placed in a garden pot with some sprigs of privet, stuck in the mould, and secured from escape by inverting an empty pot over it, its process of feeding may be observed. When it reaches the full growth, it will bury itself in the earth, and pass into the chrysalis state. It may, however, be removed from the earth, and, if preserved in a box which is not kept in too dry a situation, the observer will find it transformed into a beautiful moth.

Towards the end of this month, the nut-hatch[1] visits our orchards, particularly those which contain nut-trees, or filbert hedges: in general, he is a shy and active bird, and, unless when feeding, he is constantly in motion, running up the boles of trees, or along the large branches, in search of food: except at this season, or for a short time in spring, this bird seldom approaches our mansions, but delights to pass his time in woods and copses, where beneath the mosses and lichens of large trees lurk multitudes of insects upon which he feeds, when his favourite food the nut is no longer found. It is said that the nut-hatch forms hoards like the squirrel; but this instinctive provision is by no means certain, nor do we know any bird endowed with such foresight. The female lays six or seven rather large eggs, of a yellowish-brown colour, spotted, chiefly towards the larger end, with deeper brown, intermixed with blotches of grey.

[1] Perhaps so called from the French verb '*hacher*, to hew or cut.'

The *phalæna russula*, and the saffron butterfly, *papilio hyale*, appear in this month. Amid butterflies and flowers, the animated attractions of all-beautiful Nature, let us not be insensible to the charms of the *beau paysage* of England, the picturesque scenery in which our varied country so pre-eminently abounds. Many such a beautiful landscape as the following will occur to the recollection of every reader;—'the charms of the delightful spot;'—

Its calm seclusion from the throng,
From all the heart would fain forget—
This narrow valley, and the song
Of its small murmuring rivulet—
The flitting to and fro, of birds,
Tranquil and tame as they were once
In Eden, ere the startling words
Of man disturbed their orisons!—
Those little, shadowy paths, that wind
Up the hill side, with fruit-trees lined,
And lighted only by the breaks
The gay wind in the foliage makes,
Or vistas, here and there, that ope
Through weeping willows, *like the snatches*
Of far-off scenes of light, which HOPE
E'n through the shade of sadness catches!

Abundance of ripe *fruit* now tempts the willing palate: and in this month, above all others, we are led to exclaim with old MARVEL:

What wondrous life is this I lead!
Ripe *apples* drop about my head.
The luscious clusters of the *vine*
Upon my mouth do crush their wine.
The *nectarine* and curious *peach*
Into my hands themselves do reach.
Stumbling on *melons*, as I pass,
Insnared with flowers, I fall on grass.
Meanwhile the mind from pleasure less
Withdraws into its happiness.
The mind, that ocean, where each kind
Does straight its own resemblance find;
Yet it creates, transcending these,
Far other worlds, and other seas;
Annihilating all that's made
To a green thought in a green shade.

Here at the *fountain*'s sliding foot,
Or at some *fruit tree*'s mossy root,
Casting the body's vest aside,
My soul into the boughs does glide;
There, like a *bird*, it sits and sings,
Then whets and claps its silver wings;
And, till prepared for longer flight,
Waves in its plumes the various light.

Can the reader content himself with this delightful picture of the rich products of an English garden, in all their native glow and beauty, fresh gathered from the trees? If not, let him pay a visit to the poetical picture-gallery of Mr. THOMAS MOORE, and there let him luxuriate in the contemplation of the Van Huysum-like Fruit Piece, entitled

The PERSIAN DESSERT.

The board was spread with fruits and wine,
With grapes of gold like those that shine
On *Casbin*'s hills;—pomegranates full
Of melting sweetness, and the pears
And sunniest apples that *Caubul*
In all its thousand gardens bears.
Plantains, the golden and the green,
Malaya's nectared *mangusteen*[1],
Prunes of *Bokara*, and sweet nuts
From the far groves of *Samarcand*,
And *Bassa* dates, and apricots,
Seed of the Sun[2], from Ivan's land;
With rich conserve of Visna cherries,
Of orange flowers, and of those berries
That, wild and fresh, the young gazelles
Feed on in Erac's rocky dells.
All these in richest vases smile,
In baskets of pure santal wood,
And urns of porcelain from that isle[3]
Sunk underneath the Indian flood,
Whence oft the lucky diver brings
Vases to grace the hall of kings;

[1] This is the most delicate fruit in the world.

[2] A most delicious kind of apricot, called by the Persians *tokm-ekshems*, signifying *sun's seed*.

[3] *Mauri-ga-sima*, an island, near Formosa, supposed to have been sunk in the [illegible]a for the crimes of its inhabitants. The vessels which the fishermen and divers bring up from it are sold at an immense price in China and Japan.—*Kæmpfer*.

Wines too, of every clime and hue,
Around their liquid lustre threw;
Another Rosolli,—the bright dew
From vineyards of the green sea gushing;
And *Shiraz* wine that richly ran
As if that jewel, large and rare,
The ruby, for which *Kublai-Khan*
Offered a city's wealth [1], was blushing,
Melted within the goblets there!

But to return from the enchanting fruits of *Caubul*, of *Bokara*, and of *Samarcand*, and the delicious wines of SHIRAZ, to our own English dessert, and social after dinner chat,—the 'wine and walnuts' of a well-selected friendly party. We have already recounted some anecdotes of our favourite fruit (see our last vol. p. 279), and we will now add to the number.—A recent traveller (Mr. Bakewell) affords a curious account of the abundance of this fruit in Savoy, and of a new use to which walnuts are applied in that country,—that of *making oil*, for the winter consumption of the lamps of the inhabitants. An immense number of large walnut trees grow around the lake of Annecy, and in the valleys of this part of Savoy. The walnut is the natural olive of this country, supplying the inhabitants with oil for their own consumption, and also a considerable quantity for exportation to France and Geneva. The walnut harvest at Chateau Duing commences in September: they are beaten off the trees with long poles; the green husks are taken off as soon as they begin to decay; the walnuts are then laid in a chamber to dry, where they remain till November, when the process of making the oil commences. The first operation is to crack the nuts, and take out the kernel: for this purpose several of the neighbouring peasants, with their wives and elder children, assembled at the chateau

[1] The king of Leilan is said to have had the very finest ruby that was ever seen. Kublai-Khan sent and offered the value of a city for it; but the king answered, he would not give it for the treasure of the world.

in the evening, after their work was done. The party generally consisted of about thirty persons, who were placed around a long table in the kitchen; one man sat at each end of the table, with a small mallet to crack the nuts by hitting them on the point: as fast as they are cracked they are distributed to the other persons around the table, who take the kernels out of the shell, and remove the inner part; but they are not peeled. The peasants of Savoy are naturally lively and loquacious; and they enliven their labour with facetious stories, jokes, and noisy mirth. About ten o'clock the table is cleared to make room for the gouté, or supper, consisting of dried fruit, vegetables, and wine; and the remainder of the evening is spent in singing and dancing, which is sometimes continued till midnight. In a favourable season the number of walnuts from Mr. B.'s estate is so great, that the party assemble in this manner every evening for a fortnight, before all the walnuts are cracked; and the poor people look forward to these meetings, from year to year, as a kind of festival. They do not receive any pay; but the gouté and the amusements of the evening are their only reward.

The kernels are laid on cloths to dry, and in about a fortnight are carried to the crushing-mill, where they are ground into a paste; this is put into cloths, and undergoes the operation of pressing, to extract the oil. The best oil, which is used for salads and cooking, is pressed cold; but an inferior oil, for lamps, is extracted by heating the paste. Thirty people, in one evening, will crack as many walnuts as will produce sixty pounds of paste; this yields about fifteen wine-quarts of oil. The walnut-shells are not lost among so frugal a people as the Savoyards, but are burned for the ashes, which are used in washing. Two pounds of these ashes are equal in strength to three of wood-ashes; but the alkali is so caustic that it frequently injures the linen. The paste, after it is pressed, is dried in cakes, called *pain amer:*

this is eaten by children and poor people, and it is sold in the shops in Savoy and Geneva. The best walnut oil, pressed cold, has but a very slight taste of the kernel; but it may be easily distinguished from the best olive oil, which it resembles in colour. If the peel were taken off the walnuts, the oil would probably be quite free from any peculiar flavour; but this operation would be too tedious.

From 'wine and walnuts' we apprehend, to most of our readers, it is but a step to the sea-side [1], and the time SUN-SET: now, 'with delighted view,' we catch the last gleam of splendour, which day

> Leaves on the waters, when he sinks from us,
> So long the path, its light so tremulous.

The beautiful effect exhibited in the changes which take place in the sky should not be forgotten:

> The rosy clouds at even-tide, breaking
> Around the rich pavilion of the Sun,
> And silently dispersing one by one.

Of a '*Sun-set at Sea*' in summer, it is justly observed, that it is one of the most glorious sights creation can boast; the gradual sinking of the luminary, as it were, into a boundless bed of waters, and the succession of twilight, impress the mind with a series of thoughts the most grateful and consoling. The following beautiful lines, from the pen of a correspondent, were suggested by a sun-set witnessed in the German ocean:—

> How sweet to gaze upon the deep,
> And watch the sun-light sinking slow;
> View stars arise, while man, in sleep,
> Almost forgets his care and woe!
>
> Yet thunder soon may shake the skies,
> And lightning o'er the broad deep play;
> And bellowing north winds fleetly rise,
> To rend both sails and helm away.

[1] For an account of some curious *submarine plants*, to be found on our coasts, see our last volume, p. 280.

But safe *he* lies, tho' dangers frown,
And winds raise high the giant sea,
If, ere in sleep he laid him down,
He to his MAKER bent the knee.

Secure he sleeps amid the storm,
Who trusts in th' ALMIGHTY'S pow'r;
For round his couch some angel form
Shall place her shield in peril's hour.

RICHARD RYAN.

OCTOBER,

Remarkable Days

In OCTOBER 1824.

1.—SAINT REMIGIUS.

REMIGIUS was born at Landen, where he so closely pursued his studies, that he was supposed to lead a monastic life. After the death of Bennadius, he was, on account of his exemplary piety and extraordinary learning, chosen bishop of Rheims. Having held his bishopric 74 years, he died at 96 years of age, A.D. 535.

*5. 1760.—GEORGE FOTHERGILL, D.D., DIED.

His life was as excellent as his writings; an example of true, rational piety, such as became a Christian divine: and, yet, he never obtained any higher preferment than what he succeeded to in his college, and to which the most ordinary talents, and common decency of behaviour, would have recommended him. He never found a patron, while men with little or no merit were daily rising to dignities and rich preferments in the church. It is a common objection with the infidels of the day, that the testimony and reasonings of the established clergy in favour of Christianity deserve no regard, as coming from persons evidently interested in its success. But in answer to this, we would only desire some impartial

person to look into the state of the world, and the state of the church, and then determine whether the members of the latter may be said to have *pursued their interests*, when they embraced its party. Let a fair comparison be made between the clergy and men of equal abilities in the world, and we believe it will be acknowledged, that they would not have injured their temporal interests by engaging in any other course of life. On such a comparison, it will appear particularly striking, that, in every branch of secular business, men of the most contemptible abilities amass enormous sums, and bequeath princely fortunes to their families, while, in the sacred profession, men adorned with talents which would have added lustre to any nation, are permitted to starve, as it is not improperly called, on a poor curacy; or, even, when they have been thought tolerably successful, enjoy only a bare sufficiency, and, when they are called to receive their reward 'in another and a better world,' leave behind them a worthy and well-educated family to suffer all the miseries that attend a state of penury and distress. Let the infidels of the times, then, blush to echo this stale objection, or whisper it only to those who are entirely ignorant of the state of the world: let them hear in silence, that those who have distinguished themselves most in defence of Christianity have been found among the *inferior and neglected clergy;* and let them be told to their confusion, that we number among the ablest advocates of Christianity a CHILLINGWORTH, a HOOKER, and a FOTHERGILL.

6.—SAINT FAITH.

This virgin martyr suffered death under Dacianus, about the year 290, the most cruel torments being inflicted upon her. A great fair is held on this day at the village of St. Faith's, near Norwich, at which the gentry round about and from Norwich meet in gay attire.

9.—SAINT DENYS.

Saint Denys, or Dionysius, the Areopagite, was converted to Christianity by St. Paul. See *Acts* xvii. He was, at first, one of the judges of the celebrated court of the Areopagus, but was afterwards made Bishop of Athens, where he suffered martyrdom for the sake of the gospel.—For an account of an antient tradition relative to St. Denis, see T.T. for 1822, p. 261.

11.—OLD MICHAELMAS DAY,

Still observed as the quarter day in many places, and as the end of one year, and beginning of another, in hiring servants.

13.—TRANSLATION OF KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.

He was the youngest son of King Ethelred; but as all his elder brothers were either dead, or had fled away, he succeeded to the crown of England in the year 1042. He collected all the most useful laws made by the Saxon and Danish kings. The additional title of Confessor was probably given him by the pope, for settling what was then called *Rome Scot*, but now is better known by the name of *Peter's Pence*.—For some pretty lines on this subject, see T.T. for 1815, p. 281.

*13. 1822.—ANTONIO CANOVA DIED.

It is gratifying to learn that the first and most efficient patron of this eminent sculptor was an Englishman, Sir William Hamilton, and that many of his finest productions were executed for this enlightened patron of the arts. He died at Venice, and was buried with the highest honours in the cathedral of St. Mark. Of his fortune, honourably acquired in his profession, Canova made as honourable a use. He established prizes, and endowed all the academies at Rome. He also set apart some considerable portion of his wealth in aid of a fund for the encourage-

ment of young artists, and for granting pensions to those whom age or misfortune had rendered incapable of following their profession. By his will he made a magnificent bequest to his native village of Passagno, in the Venetian territory, including the erection of a splendid church.

*14. 1788.—ROBERT MILLHOUSE BORN.

Our poet was born at Nottingham, and was the second of ten children. He is indebted for the little education with which he has been blessed, to a *Sunday School;* where, to use his own words, 'between the age of six and ten, those truths were inculcated upon his mind, by which he trusts he will be benefited both through time and eternity.' The poverty of his parents compelled them to put him to work at the tender age of six years; and at ten he was placed in a stocking manufactory. His poems were composed while at the loom, amid the boisterous interruptions of his fellow-workmen; and frequently, when released from his daily labour, by encroaching upon the hours which ought to have been allotted to sleep. The Rev. Dr. Booker having kindly consented to become the editor of Millhouse's Poems, they have been just published in two small volumes; and we take this opportunity of recommending them to the friendly notice of our readers, as, we believe, the author looks with some anxiety to the pecuniary aid which his poems are likely to afford him. We have already (p. 38, *note*) given a specimen of his sonnets; we now add the following:—

To an INFANT DAUGHTER.

Sweet blue-eyed cherub! in my prayers for thee,
I have not asked for beauty, yet thou'rt fair;
And as for wealth—thy lot is poverty;
Nor do I wish much gold to be thy share.
May Heav'n protect thee from the villain's snare,
And give thee virtue and a prudent mind!
Long may thy cheek the rose and dimple wear,
With breath as fragrant as the vernal wind.

Oh! may to thee the lib'ral arts be kind!
Nor be thou fortune's scorn so much as I!
And let thine heart to those firm precepts bind,
Which will not fail to lift the soul on high.
My cherub! if enough of these be given,
Thee and the rest I leave to judging Heaven.

To TIME.

'Tis Time; I feel him knocking at my heart,
And he shall hold his unresisted sway
Till yonder planets from their orbits start,
And this huge sepulchre, the earth, decay.
Oh, he has clouded many a festive day
With angry feuds, or jealousy's mistrust;
He strikes the blood-stained tyrant with dismay,
And buries antient palaces in dust,
Wreathing vile weeds around the sculptured bust.
The mightiest dynasties before him fall,
As steel is cankered by corrosive rust,
Or as the storm hurls down some pond'rous wall.
Yet, lo! the day—the awful day of doom
Shall bury Time—the peopler of the tomb.

17.—SAINT ETHELDREDA.

She was a princess of distinguished piety, daughter of Anna, King of the East-Angles, and Hereswitha his queen, and was born about the year 630, at Ixning, a small village in Suffolk.—See T.T. for 1814, p. 255.

18.—SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST.

Luke was born at Antioch, the metropolis of Syria, a place celebrated for the study of the liberal arts. He lived a single life, and died in the 84th year of his age, about the year of Christ 70; probably a natural death.

25.—SAINT CRISPIN.

Crispinus and Crispianus, two brothers, were born at Rome; whence they travelled to Soissons in France, about the year 303, to propagate the Christian religion. Being desirous, however, of rendering themselves independent, they gained a subsistence by shoemaking. It having been discovered that they had privately embraced the Christian faith, and endeavoured to make proselytes of the inhabitants, the

governor of the town immediately ordered them to be beheaded, about the year 308. From this time, the shoemakers chose them for their tutelar saints. There is a curious anecdote relative to this day in T.T. for 1816, p. 291.

The festival of St. Crispin, which we noticed in our last (p. 289) as being kept at Edinburgh on this day, was *celebrated* at Newcastle on the 30th July, 1823, by a grand procession of horse and foot. The *king* was crowned in the hospital at the Westgate, whence the procession started about noon. As it was thirty-four years since the celebration of a similar festival in Newcastle, the *regalia* were hired at a considerable expense from Scotland; but, altogether, the show was not so splendid as was expected. The king was tolerably well dressed, but the armour and mounting of the champion were grotesque and mean; and, on the whole, the Indian prince and his two supporters, dressed in pink and yellow robes of glazed calico, were the most showy figures. The number of spectators was immense, and the day fine. His majesty and the peers and chief officers dined together, and there was a ball in the evening.

28.—SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE, *Apostles.*

Simon is called the *Canaanite*, from the Hebrew word *Cana*, to be zealous; hence his name of *Simon Zelotes*, or the Zealot, *Luke* vi, 15. After enduring various troubles and afflictions, he, with great cheerfulness, suffered death on the cross.

Jude is called both by the name of Thaddæus and Libbæus: *Matt.* x, 3, and *Mark* iii, 18. Jude, the brother of James: *Jude*, verse 1. And Judas, not Iscariot: *John* xiv, 22. He was of our Lord's kindred; '*Is not his mother called Mary, and his brethren James and Joses, and Simon and Judas?*' Matt. xiii, 55. After great success in his apostolic ministry, he was, at last, for a free and open reproof of the superstitious rites of the Magi, cruelly put to death. He has left one epistle of universal concern to Christians.

Astronomical Occurrences

In OCTOBER 1824.

Great source of day! best image here below
Of thy Creator, ever pouring wide,
From world to world, the vital ocean round,
On Nature write with every beam His praise.
Soul of surrounding worlds!———
'Tis by thy secret, strong *attractive force*,
As with a chain indissolubly bound,
Thy system rolls entire; from the far bourne
Of utmost '*Herschel*,' wheeling wide his round
Of '*eighty*' years; to Mercury, whose disk
Can scarce be caught by philosophic eye,
Lost in the near effulgence of thy blaze. THOMSON.

Solar Phenomena.

The Sun enters Scorpio at 8m. after 11 in the morning of the 23d of this month; and he rises and sets as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

October 1st,	Sun rises	12	m. after	6.	Sets	48	m. after 5
6th,	.....	22	.....	6	.....	38	 5
11th,	.....	31	.....	6	.....	29	 5
16th,	.....	41	.....	6	.....	19	 5
21st,	.....	51	.....	6	.....	9	 5
26th,	.....	0	.....	7	.....	0	 5
31st,	.....	9	.....	7	.....	51	 4

Equation of Time.

If the numbers in the following Table be subtracted from the time shown at the corresponding moments by a good sun-dial, the results will be the time that should be indicated by a well regulated clock at the same instants.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

			m.	s.
Friday, October	1st,	from the time by the dial *subt.*	10	23
Wednesday,	6th,	.....	11	54
Monday,	11th,	.....	13	15
Saturday,	16th,	.....	14	24
Thursday,	21st,	.....	15	18
Tuesday,	26th,	.....	15	55
Sunday,	31st,	.....	16	14

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon, ...	8th	day, at 56 m. after	3	in the morning
Last Quarter,	15th,	..... 45	4	in the afternoon
New Moon, ..	22d,	..... 3	8	in the morning
First Quarter,	29th,	..... 2	6	in the evening

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

Among the most favourable of the Moon's transits for observation, during this month, are the following, viz.

October	1st,	at 31 m. after	7	in the evening
	2d,	... 16	8	.....
	3d,	... 59	8	.....
	4th,	... 40	9	.....
	5th,	... 21	10	.....
	6th,	... 2	11	.....
	7th,	... 45	11	.....
	14th,	... 52	4	in the morning
	15th,	... 49	5	.....
	16th,	... 44	6	.....
	17th,	... 38	7	.....
	18th,	... 31	8	.....
	27th,	... 40	4	in the evening
	28th,	... 30	5	.....
	29th,	... 16	6	.....
	30th,	... 0	7	.....
	31st,	... 41	7	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Though the illuminated part of this planet has now been diminishing for about two months, the decrease is yet scarcely perceptible; the proportion being as follows:—

October 1st,	Illuminated part	11·47629
	Dark part.....	0·52371

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

As Jupiter has now receded to a considerable distance from the Sun, and the length of the nights has also increased, both this and the succeeding month afford the young astronomer good opportunities of observing these eclipses. The following are the best adapted for that purpose this month, viz.

Immersions

First Satellite, ...	7th day, at	8m.	37 s.	after	3	in the morning
	14th	2	... 6	.....	5	.....
	23d	23	... 54	.....	1	.....
	30th	17	... 15	.....	3	.....
Second Satellite,	3d	51	... 43	.....	1	.....
	10th	26	... 6	.....	4	.....

Form of Saturn's Ring.

October 1st, { Transverse axis ..... 1·000
Conjugate axis ..... — 0·484

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*
Mercury	0 8 *aft.*	11 27 *mor.*	11 2	10 56	11 2
Venus	1 5 *aft.*	1 11	1 18	1 25	1 32
Mars	3 45 *aft.*	3 41	3 38	3 34	3 31
Jupiter	8 14 *mor.*	7 56	7 37	7 18	6 58
Saturn	3 56 *mor.*	3 34	3 11	2 47	2 23
G. Sidus	6 24 *aft.*	5 59	5 38	5 15	4 43
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	31°32′	35°49′	38° 3′	37° 8′	34° 8′
Venus	29 15	26 24	23 43	21 15	19 3
Mars	15 55	15 12	14 36	14 9	13 50
Jupiter	57 4	56 50	56 38	56 26	56 16
Saturn	58 6	58 3	58 1	57 57	57 53
G. Sidus	15 9	15 9	15 9	15 10	15 10

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

October 15th,	with ♂ in Gemini, at	0 m.	after	6	in the morning
24th, ...	♂ in Scorpio ...	0	.....	1	in the afternoon
26th, ...	Mars	0	.....	8	in the morning
27th, ...	G. Sidus	0	.....	7	in the evening.

Mercury will be in his inferior conjunction at 45m. after midnight of the 2d of this month. Saturn will be stationary at 15m. past 5 in the morning of the 5th. Mercury will be stationary on the 11th. Venus will be in conjunction with 2 α in Libra at 10 in the morning of the 15th. Mercury will also be in conjunction with γ in Virgo at 4 in the afternoon of the 19th, on which day he will likewise attain his greatest elongation.

STAR-LIGHT.

The Stars are twinkling bright;
The Autumn breezes light,
'Mid the darksome foliage play;
And twilight's sombre hues
A tenderness infuse,
More beautiful than day.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS.

[Continued from p. 228.]

AQUARIUS (♒), *the Water Bearer.*

AQUARIUS is the second of the winter signs, and that which the Sun enters on the 20th of January, when the Earth in its orbit passes from Cancer to Leo. In the visible zodiac, Aquarius occupies the place formerly assigned to Pisces, and is entered by the Sun about the 18th of February. In searching for the origin of these constellations, we naturally turn to Grecian records; but there the imagination often takes precedence of the judgment, and we find it impossible to reconcile the fables of their mythology with the symbols by which the constellations of the zodiac are now represented. We are therefore obliged to have recourse to other sources of information; and such is the case in the present instance. The following is *Dr. Jamieson*'s explanation of the subject.

'In the circular zodiac on the ceiling of one of the upper apartments in the Temple of Isis, at Dendera, Aquarius passant balances a fish in a fine chain; he holds the same office in the zodiac of Esné; in the Oriental or Indian zodiacs, he sustains a vase or cup of libation in one hand. Janus, or the Sun in *Aquarius*, was represented by the Etruscans, who derived their religion from the East, as seated on a throne composed of twelve altars. The Gentiles confounded Noah with Janus, Saturn, Dionysius, and other types of the Sun in the lower hemisphere, the region of silence and night, of darkness and

rest. In the Egyptian zodiac, *Canobus*, with his pitcher and cubit of justice, is the evident prototype of Aquarius with his urn. Canobus was the Egyptian Neptune. The Egyptians adored the idol Canobus under the form of a vase; and Canobus was the type of the Nile. Towards the end of July, Aquarius sets with his head foremost, when the antient Egyptians fabled that he made the Nile overflow, by sinking down his urn.

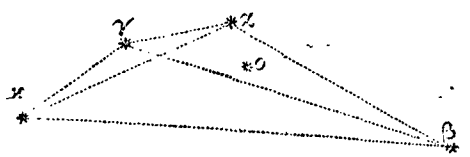
'When Aquarius occupied the place of Capricorn, which it did about 2000 years ago, the heliacal rising of the dog-star, *Latrator Anubis*, was in the latitude of 30° north, the signal for Egypt to prepare for the inundation of the river Nile. The connexion of this celestial sign with the annual rising of the river, would undoubtedly soon become a matter of curiosity; and as this could not well be discovered, it was natural for an ignorant and superstitious people to ascribe the whole to the action of the Dog-star, as a deity. Antiently, when Sirius began to rise, the rains commenced in Abyssinia; when it was vertical, the river overflowed; and when it set, the water decreased. Considering the benefits they derived from Aquarius, it was not unnatural for the multitude to worship him as typified by Canobus with his pitcher, or under the symbol of Dea Multimammia. In the Egyptian zodiac, constructed by the second Hermes, Canobus is represented under this form; and from the numerous paps of the body an abundance of milk flows, emblematical of that ample nourishment which was to be derived from the Nile.'—*Celestial Atlas*, p. 48.

The bounding signs of Aquarius are Equuleus and Pegasus on the north, Pisces and Cetus on the east, Piscis Australis and Apparatus Sculptoris on the south, with Capricornus and Antinöus on the west. The whole number of stars comprised in the space allotted to this sign is 108; four of which are of the 3d magnitude, six of the 4th, &c. The prin-

cipal star, which is α of the 3d magnitude, has a southern declination of 1° 10′ 12″, with a right ascension of 329° 10′ 47″, and a meridian altitude of 37° 18′ 48″. This star, which is situated in the right shoulder of Aquarius, rises at London on the east point of the horizon. It also rose and culminated on the first day of each month in 1820 as follows:—

	Rose.		*Culminated.*			*Rose.*		*Culminated.*	
	h. m.		*h. m.*			*h. m.*		*h. m.*	
January	9 17	*mor.*	3 20	*aft.*	July.....	9 32	*aft.*	3 12	*mor.*
February	7 0	.....	1 0	.....	August.	7 30	.....	1 8	.....
March...	5 17	.....	11 11	*mor.*	Sept.....	5 30	.....	11 13	*aft.*
April.....	3 27	.....	9 16	.....	October	3 43	.....	9 28	.....
May.....	1 30	.....	7 15	.....	Novemb.	1 45	.....	7 33	.....
June.....	11 27	*aft.*	5 10	.....	Decemb.	11 34	*mor.*	5 28	.....

About 10° north of δ and γ, already noticed as situated in the tail of Capricorn, we find β in the west shoulder of Aquarius, while α occupies a similar position in the right or eastern shoulder, and γ on the wrist of the right arm which rests upon the urn. If these three stars be joined, they will form an obtuse angled triangle, with α at the vertex, as in the following diagram.



It may also be observed that κ is in the upper part of the stream where it issues from the urn. If this be connected with the others, it will complete the preceding figure, and include the star o, which is of the 5th magnitude, and situated near the south-eastern margin of the beard of Aquarius. One of the readiest ways, however, is to find the bright star Fomalhaut, which has about 30° of south declination, and then, raising the eye a little west of the meridian, the above stars will easily be perceived.

When α *Aquarii* rises, Antares is a little east of

the south; Cancer sets in the west north west; Andromeda and Pisces rise on the north east; Hercules is between the zenith and the south; Virgo between the same point and the south west; and Leo between the zenith and the west; while Ursa Major is between the zenith and the north west. When α is on the meridian, about the middle of January, Sagittarius declines to the south west; Ursa Major is north; Gemini is rising, nearly in the north east; and Taurus is above the horizon towards the east; Aries is between the zenith and the east, while Lyra and Hercules are between that point and the west. When Aquarius sets, accompanied by Pegasus, Taurus is on the meridian; Leo rises east north east; Hercules is north, and Camelopardalis in the zenith. Aldebaran, Rigel, Sirius, and Procyon, are in the south east quarter of the heavens; while Regulus and the pointers are on the north east.

The Naturalist's Diary

For OCTOBER 1824.

The sere leaf, flitting on the blast,
The hips and haws in ev'ry hedge,
Bespeak OCTOBER come! At last,
We stand on Winter's crumbling edge:
Like Nature's op'ning grave, we eye
The two brief months not yet gone by. B. BARTON.

BUT sombre and gloomy as the poet's landscape of this month may appear, there is something still left us to soothe the imagination, and much that may amend the heart. Beauty (it is justly observed by a popular essayist[1]) has not yet deserted us; beauty, too, of a kind which, from the awful accompaniments that surround it, steals upon the mind with a tender-

[1] *Dr. Drake's Evenings in Autumn* (vol. i, p. 9), one of the many delightful books which this elegant and amiable writer has penned in his Suffolk retreat.

ness and a permanency of impression which had not otherwise belonged to it. There is in the grey and sober tinting of an *evening in Autumn*, in the many-coloured hues of the trembling foliage, in the fitful sighing of the breeze, in the mournful call of the partridge, in the soft low piping of the red-breast, and, above all, in the sweetly-plaintive warbling of the thrush, the blackbird, and the woodlark, an union of sight and sound which can scarcely fail to touch the breast with a corresponding sense of pensive pleasure. More especially is this felt to be the case, if, while we are contemplating such a scene, the *setting-sun*, hitherto shrouded in the gathering gloom, should gleam a farewell lustre on the fields: it is then, perhaps, that our emotions harmonize most completely with external nature; it is then that, in the touching language of a contemporary poet, and in the same exquisite spirit of tender enthusiasm, we must wish to take our leave of the departing luminary:

Farewell, farewell! to others give
The light thou tak'st from me:
Farewell, farewell! bid others live
To joy, or misery.

Say, breathes there one, who at this hour
Beholds thy glories shine,
And owns thy strangely-thrilling power
With feelings such as mine?

For I have viewed thee as a friend,
And loved, at morn or eve,
Thy golden progress to attend,
Thy first, last look receive.

Thou, witness of my lonely dreams,
Inspirer of my shell,
Like Memnon's, answering to thy beams,
Not yet—not yet farewell!

How soft, how tender a repose
O'er Nature sheds its balm,
Like sorrow, mellowing, at the close,
To resignation calm!

While man's last murmur, hushed to rest,
Steals gradual from the ear,
As the world's tumult, from a breast
Where heav'n alone is dear.

O'er all my soul seems gently shed
A kindred, softened light;
I think of hopes that long have fled,
And scarcely mourn their flight.

Once more farewell! Another day,
To all, or dark or glad,
Fleets with thy vanished orb away,
And am I pleased or sad?

I know not. All my soul to speak,
Vain words their aid deny;
But, oh! the smile is on my cheek,
The tear is in mine eye!

C. H. TOWNSEND.

We cannot be surprised that the evening of the dying year should be the chosen season with the poet, the philosopher and the man of sorrows, who turns away with disgust from the too frequent selfishness of human life. We have lately poured forth our souls in gratitude to the Father of Spirits for the ripened bounty of the fields; and, whilst the acknowledgment is yet glowing on our lips, the changed and awful aspect of the year calls us still farther to repose upon His love, and draws us still nearer to the Author of our Being. We see Him in the fading woods, we hear Him in the coming storm, yet we feel delighted in the consciousness of His presence; and it is this mingled emotion of sublimity, of melancholy, and confiding adoration, which has given to the closing scenes of AUTUMN an influence so soothing to the heart, yet so lofty and commanding in its powers of impression on the mind. It is scarcely possible, indeed, to listen to the winds of Autumn as they strew the withered foliage around us, without, mentally at least, adopting the very beautiful invocation of a living bard:—

Autumn! soul-soothing season, thou who spread'st
Thy lavish feast for ev'ry living thing,
Around whose leaf-strewed path, as on thou tread'st,
The year its dying odours loves to fling,
Their last faint fragrance sweetly scattering;—
O! let thy influence, meek, majestic, holy,
So consciously around my spirit cling,
That its fixed frame may be, remote from folly,
Of sober thought combined with melancholy.

If, in the morning of my life, to Spring
I paid my homage with a heart elate;
And with each flutt'ring insect on the wing,
Or small bird, singing to his happy mate,
And Flora's festival, then held in state;—
If joyous sympathy with these was mine,
O! still allow me now to dedicate
To Thee a loftier song:—that tone assign
Unto my murm'ring lyre, which Nature gives to thine.

A tone of thrilling softness, now, as caught
From light winds sweeping o'er a late-reaped field;
And, now and then, be with these breezes brought
A murmur musical of winds concealed
In coy recesses, by escape revealed:
And, ever and anon, still deeper tone
Of winter's gathering dirge, at distance pealed,
By harps and hands unseen, and only known
To some enthusiast's ear when worshipping alone'.

A ramble among the *woods* at this season will prove a high treat to the inquisitive and admiring naturalist, who, whether he contemplate the 'giant oak' or the minute *fungus* found at its root, is equally impressed with the power, the wisdom, and the beneficence of the Creator. See our last volume, p. 301, for an account of the strongly marked character of the woodlands at this season.

Summer still lingers, though its glories fade,
Still soft and fragrant are the gales that blow;
The *yellow foliage* now adorns the glade,
And paler skies succeed the summer's glow.

' 'A Day in Autumn, a Poem, by Bernard Barton:' London, 1820, pp. 2 and 3.

The drooping *flowers* fade, and all around
Their scattered blossoms wither and decay;
But still *bright verdure* decorates the ground,
And the Sun sheds a soft and silver ray.

So gently pass we on to wintry days,
Through all the changes that the scene deform;
And still, O still the BEING let us praise
Who sent the sunshine, and who sends the storm!

And so, when dreams of happiness are fled,
Vanished like summer suns and nature's bloom,
O'er the sad heart some ling'ring joys are shed,
To cheer the way that leads us to the tomb. ANON.

At the beginning of this month, or latter end of September, some summer birds of passage, of which the swallow is the first, take their departure for warmer regions. The time of their leaving this country varies in different seasons. On the 12th of October last (1822) the *common swallow* was seen, in considerable numbers, in the neighbourhood of London; being daily observed proving their strength in many a sportive ring, and evincing no disposition to launch fearless in the boundless sky in quest of a retreat from the storms of winter. Several swallows were seen in Maryport, Northumberland, in the middle of October. The *swift*, also, was observed hovering about the ruins of Tynemouth Priory on the 4th of November. In Berkshire, near Reading, *swallows* were observed in the middle of *December*.

Many of the small-billed birds that feed on insects disappear when the cold weather commences. The *throstle*, the *red-wing*, and the *fieldfare*, which migrated in March, now return; and the *ring-ouzel* arrives from the Welsh and Scottish Alps to winter in more sheltered situations. About the middle of the month, the common martin disappears; and, shortly afterwards, the smallest kind of swallow, the sand-martin, and the stone-curlew, migrate. The Royston or hooded crow (*corvus cornix*) arrives from Scotland and the northern parts of England, being driven thence by the severity of the season. The

woodcock returns, and is found on our eastern coasts: and if they appear in extraordinary numbers, it is considered indicative of a severe winter; a prognostic which proved true in 1822-1823. On the *Migration of Birds*, see our former volumes, particularly the *last*, pp. 303-307.

It has been before observed, that birds, in the course of their flight from one country to another, will frequently resort to the rigging of a ship, as a resting-place in their transit across the wide ocean. Mr. Gray, in his 'Letters on Canada,' gives the following instance. 'Among the extraordinary things (he observes) one meets with at sea, it is not one of the least surprising to observe small *land birds* several hundred miles from land: I was sitting on deck, when to my great surprise my attention was arrested by the warbling of a bird. I looked up, and saw a *linnet* perched on the rigging, and whistling with as much ardour as if on a bush in a green meadow. It is not a little astonishing how these little birds should be able to continue on the wing so long as is necessary to fly several hundreds of miles, particularly when the usual shortness of their flight is considered. They continue sometimes with a vessel several days, and are frequently caught by the sailors; but it is remarked that they seldom live, though every care is taken to give them proper food. When the vessel rolls much, they find it difficult to retain their footing on the rigging, and you see them forced, as it were, to resume their flight in search of a better resting place.'

Small birds now begin to congregate, and the common linnet (*fringilla linaria*) is the first to lead the way.—See our last volume, p. 308.

Various kinds of *waterfowl* make their appearance; and, about the middle of the month, *wild geese* leave the fens, and go to the rye lands to devour the young corn. *Rooks* sport and dive, in a playful manner, before they go to roost, congregating in large numbers. The starling (*sturnus vulgaris*) sings. (See

T. T. 1821, p. 255.) The awk or puffin visits, for the purpose of incubation, some of the rocky isles of Britain, in amazing numbers.

That singular appearance in nature, the *gossamer*, occurs in this month. It was observed by a correspondent from Chigwell, on a fine afternoon in October 1822, extending over the surface of a common and adjoining fields of a mile (and probably more) in circumference. The fine web seemed to stretch from every blade of grass or bit of stubble, intersecting itself in all directions.—See an account of the gossamer in T. T. for 1820, pp. 261-264.

The following *flowers* are now in blow: holly-hock, Michaelmas daisy, stocks, nasturtian, marigold, mignionette, lavender, wall-flower, virginia stock, heart's ease, laurustinus, rocket, St. John's wort, periwinkle, china asters, chrysanthemums, American groundsel, and the *china rose*.

Bright on the *rose*'s breast the morning star
Shone sweet, regardless of the stormy hour;
But Twilight, rising on her dusky car,
Wept o'er the ruins of the beauteous flower.

Fair was that flower, and o'er its opening bloom
Young Love, exultant, spread its guardian wing;
Nor saw, inebriate with its sweet perfume,
The frown of woe that chilled the breast of spring.

From caves of death a sullen demon passed,
Cold was his look and terrible his dart;
Love shrunk affrighted from the threat'ning blast,
And pressed his flow'ret closer to his heart.

In vain he caught it to his throbbing breast,
The demon tore it from his ardent clasp;
Cast it to earth—but, ah! too rudely pressed,
The flower had withered in the demon's grasp.

Blossom of beauty! to thy lovely form
I bade my lyre in tones of rapture flow;
But now, alas! the ear of death to charm,
A grief-lorn minstrel at thy tomb I bow.

Yet weep not, village maids, repress the sigh;
To death's dread arm but transient pow'r is given:
This Rose, transplanted to a brighter sky,
Breathes its warm fragrance through the bow'rs of heaven.

W. I. ROBERTS.

The *alkekengi* now holds up its scarlet bladders encompassing a scarlet cherry full of seeds. But chiefly the *dahlia*, a flower in general cultivation, exhibits its majestic and brilliant splendour of stars above its dark green stalks and leaves.—See T. T. 1821, pp. 258-260, for a description of the two species of dahlia usually grown, with full directions for rearing them.

Although this month is, in a great measure, devoid of floral attractions, yet fruits and *seeds* claim our attention, and deserve our examination.—See our last volume, p. 309.

Hips and *haws* now ornament the hedges. The berries of the bryony and the privet; the barberry, the blackberry, the holly, and the *elder*—from which is made the famous winter wine of Old England's peasantry—with sloes, bullaces, and damsons, are now in great plenty. The chief *harvest of apples* takes place about the end of October, and *cider* is made. The *vintage*, or harvest of grapes, as important to foreigners as the *corn* harvest is to us, takes place in October.—See our last volume, p. 311, for some beautiful lines on this subject.—October is the principal month for brewing beer, whence the name applied to very strong beer of OLD OCTOBER. In this month also is the great *potatoe* harvest.

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As many of our friends contrive to find a corner for *Time*'s Telescope along with Mr. *Dollond*'s Telescope, in their travelling portmanteaus, we shall continue our series of 'marine views,' and request those readers who may be at the sea-side, to compare the copies with the original:—Let us recommend, then, a *solitary* ramble on the beach, just when the light

> Of the *calm Moon* comes in, and freshly bright
> The fields without are seen, sleeping as still
> As if no life remained in breeze or rill.

In such a time as this, we can truly say with the poet,—

We are alone, but not alone as they
Who, shut in chambers, think it loneliness;
The SILENT OCEAN, and the starlight bay—
The twilight glow which momently grows less—
The voiceless sands and dropping caves do lie
Around us.——

And at this moment, if the mind be properly attuned to meditative enjoyment, 'Thoughts' similar to the following cannot fail to present themselves:—

SEA-SIDE THOUGHTS.

Beautiful, sublime, and glorious;
Mild, majestic, foaming, free;—
Over time itself victorious,
Image of eternity.

Epithet-exhausting Ocean!
'Twere as easy to control
In the storm thy billowy motion,
As thy wonders to unrol.

Sun, and moon, and stars shine o'er thee,
See thy surface ebb and flow;
Yet attempt not to explore thee
In thy soundless depths below.

Whether morning's splendours steep thee
With the rainbow's glowing grace,
Tempests rouse, or navies sweep thee,
'Tis but for a moment's space.

Earth,—her valleys, and her mountains,
Mortal man's behests obey;
Thy unfathomable fountains
Scoff his search, and scorn his sway.

Such art thou—stupendous Ocean!
But, if overwhelmed by thee,
Can we think without emotion
What must thy CREATOR be'?

[*] Poems by Bernard Barton, Third Edition: Baldwin, 1822.

NOVEMBER.

Remarkable Days

In NOVEMBER 1824.

1.—ALL SAINTS.

IN the early ages of Christianity the word *saint* was applied to all *believers*, as is evident in the use of it by Saint Paul and Saint Luke; but the term was afterwards restricted to such as excelled in Christian virtues.—For some rural customs on this day, see T. T. for 1814, pp. 278-9.

Ye, too, must fly before a chasing hand,
Angels and saints, in every hamlet mourned!
Ah! if the old idolatry be spurned,
Let not your radiant shapes desert the land:
Her adoration was not your demand,
The fond heart proffered it—the servile heart;
And therefore are ye summoned to depart,
Michael, and thou, St. *George*, whose flaming brand
The Dragon quelled; and valiant *Margaret*,
Whose rival sword a like opponent slew;
And rapt *Cecilia*, seraph-haunted queen
Of harmony; and weeping *Magdalene*,
Who in the penitential desert met
Gales sweet as those that over Eden blew!

2.—ALL SOULS.

In Catholic countries, on the eve and day of All Souls, the churches are hung with black; the tombs are opened; a coffin covered with black, and surrounded with wax lights, is placed in the nave of the church; and in one corner, figures in wood, representing the souls of the deceased, are halfway plunged into the flames.

5.—KING WILLIAM LANDED.

The glorious Revolution of 1688 is commemorated on this day, when the throne of England became vested in the illustrious House of Orange. Although

King William landed on the 5th of November, as is specified in the prayers of the Church for that day, the almanacks still continue the mistake of marking it as the *fourth*.

5.—POWDER PLOT.

This day is kept to commemorate the diabolical attempt of the Papists to blow up the Parliament House. The best account of this nefarious transaction is detailed in Hume's History of England, vol. vi, pp. 33-38 (8vo edition, 1802.)—See also T. T. 1814, p. 280.

6.—SAINT LEONARD.

Leonard, or *Lienard*, was a French nobleman of great reputation in the court of Clovis I; he was instructed in divinity by Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, and afterwards made Bishop of Limosin. Several miraculous stories are told of him by the monks, not worth relating. He died about the year 559, and has always been implored by prisoners as their guardian saint.

9.—LORD MAYOR'S DAY.

The word *mayor*, if we adopt the etymology of Verstegan, comes from the antient English *maier*, able or potent, of the verb *may* or *can*. King Richard I, A.D. 1189, first changed the bailiffs of London into Mayors; by whose example others were afterwards appointed.—See T.T. for 1818, p. 278, and for 1821, p. 269, for some pleasing lines on this day. A minute description of the Lord Mayor's Show, as it was managed in the year 1575, will be found in T.T. for 1820, p. 274.

11.—SAINT MARTIN.

He was a native of Hungary, and for some time followed the life of a soldier; but afterwards took orders, and was made Bishop of Tours in France, in which see he continued for twenty-six years. Martin died about the year 397, much lamented, and highly esteemed for his virtues.—For some lines on *this* day, see T.T. for 1821, p. 271.

13.—SAINT BRITIUS.

Britius, or Brice, succeeded St. Martin in the bishopric of Tours in the year 399. He died in 444.

17.—SAINT HUGH.

Our saint was a native of Burgundy, or Gratianopolis, and made Bishop of Lincoln, by Henry II. In this see he obtained great fame, not only for his extraordinary austerity of life and excellent economy, but for his rebuilding the cathedral from the foundation. Hugh died on this day, in the year 1200, of an ague. In 1220, he was canonized at Rome, and his remains were taken up October 7, 1282, and deposited in a silver shrine.

20.—EDMUND, KING AND MARTYR.

Edmund, King of the East-Angles, having been attacked by the Danes in 870, and unable to resist them, heroically offered to surrender himself a prisoner, provided they would spare his subjects. The Danes, however, having seized him, used their utmost endeavours to induce Edmund to renounce his religion; but, refusing to comply, they first beat him with clubs, then scourged him with whips, and afterwards, binding him to a stake, killed him with their arrows.

22.—SAINT CECILIA.

Cecilia was a Roman lady, who, refusing to renounce her religion, was thrown into a furnace of boiling water, and scalded to death. Others say that she was stifled in a bath, a punishment frequently inflicted, at that time, on female criminals of rank. She suffered martyrdom about the year 225. Cecilia is regarded as the patroness of music, and is represented by Raffaelle with a regal in her hand.

On HEARING SWEET MUSIC.

From a MS. Volume of Poems, by M. L. B.

It came upon my soul like those pure dreams
With which the saintly Eremite is blest,
Who, dwelling in this guilty world, yet seems
So calm, so sinless, as an angel guest,
And, ever in his slumbers, views the beams
And drinks the Music of the land of rest!

It came upon my soul, as calmly sweet,
As sadly beautiful, as are those strains
Which float in air, when viewless beings greet
The yet embodied essence, ere the pains
That rend its trembling, fragile, mortal seat,
Bid it depart, where Music's spirit reigns.

23.—SAINT CLEMENT.

Clement I was born at Rome, and was one of the first bishops of that place: this see he held about sixteen years; from the year 64 or 65 to 81. He was remarkable for having written two Epistles, so excellent, and so highly esteemed, by the primitive Christians, that the first was for some time considered canonical. Clement was sentenced to work in the quarries, and afterwards, having an anchor fastened about his neck, was drowned in the sea.

23.—O. MART.

Old Martimas-day, an antient quarter-day.

25.—SAINT CATHERINE.

Our saint was born at Alexandria, and received a liberal education. About the year 305, she was converted to Christianity, which she afterwards professed with the utmost intrepidity, openly reproving the pagans for offering sacrifices to their idols, and upbraiding the Emperor Maxentius, to his face, with the most flagrant acts of tyranny and oppression.

28.—ADVENT SUNDAY.

This and the three subsequent Sundays which precede the grand festival of Christmas take their name from the Latin *advenire*, to come into; or from the word *adventus*, an approach.

30.—SAINT ANDREW.

Andrew was the son of James, a fisherman at Bethsaida, and younger brother of Peter. He was condemned to be crucified on a cross of the form of an X; and, that his death might be more lingering, he was fastened with cords. The *Order of the Thistle* is described in T.T. for 1818, p. 283.—See also T.T. for 1820, p. 280, for some poetry on the subject.

NOV. 1536.—GARCILASSO DE LA VEGA DIED, ÆT. 33!

Sometimes he turned to gaze upon his book,
Boscán or GARCILASSO; by the wind
Even as the page is rustled whilst we look,
So by the poesy of his own mind
Over the mystic leaf his soul was shook. BYRON.

This celebrated Spanish poet was born of a noble family at Toledo. His father was a counsellor of state to Ferdinand and Isabella, and employed by them on several important negociations, particularly in an embassy to Pope Alexander VI. Garcilasso was educated near the Emperor Charles V, who had a particular regard for him, and whom he accompanied in his military expeditions: and he became as renowned for his courage as his poetry. He accompanied Charles in his various expeditions, and was killed at Nice by a stone thrown from a turret. Mr. Nott, the industrious commentator and accomplished scholar, in his Works of Surrey and Wyatt, pays an elegant tribute to the talents of Garcilasso, and draws a happy parallel between him and our Surrey. 'They both,' he observes, 'glowed with a generous love of enterprise, and both were distinguished by their military ardour in the field. They both devoted the short intervals of their leisure to the improvement of their native tongue; they both formed themselves on Virgil and the Italian school; both had minds susceptible of love and friendship; both were constant in their attachments; both died immaturely, and left in the bosoms of the good and learned unavailing regret at their untimely loss.' Yet with this regret the good and the learned may blend the happier feeling of dignified delight. There is no stain on the treasures they have left. The talents with which they were gifted, were properly cultivated; the instruments of music which they touched with so much tenderness, were wreathed around with none but innocent flowers—were devoted alone to the gratification of the generous sensibilities of our nature. Not a single string of those they

struck, had in its sound the dissonance of vice—that one grand discord, which not the harmonies of all the others can, in the ear of true Taste, ever overpower. Let this be their most successful title to applause; there can be no nobler aim marked out for young genius, in an age when the sister-melodies of Virtue and the Lyre are in danger of becoming, like Helena and Hermia, separate and estranged, than the ambition to have it said of him in after days: 'he had nothing to reproach *himself* with in his devotion to the Muses; he sang like Surrey and Garcilasso de la Vega.'—See Life of Garcilasso, in *Wiffen's Translation of his Work*, pp. 165-167.

Astronomical Occurrences

In NOVEMBER 1824.

Oh, NATURE! all-sufficient! over all!
Enrich me with the knowledge of thy works!
Snatch me to Heaven; and show thy wonders there,
World beyond world, in infinite extent,
Profusely scattered o'er the blue immense. THOMSON.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Sagittarius at 34 m. after 7 in the morning of the 22d of this month, during which period he rises and sets as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

November 1st,	Sun rises	11 m. after	7.	Sets at 49 m. past	4
6th,	.....	20	7.	..... 40	4
11th,	.....	29	7.	..... 31	4
16th,	.....	37	7.	..... 23	4
21st,	.....	44	7.	..... 16	4
26th,	.....	51	7.	..... 9	4

Equation of Time.

By subtracting the following quantities from the time as observed on a good Sun-dial, or obtained by an observation of the Sun's transit, we shall obtain

the mean time answering to the same moments of absolute duration.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

		m.	s.
Monday, Nov.	1st, from the time by the dial *subt.*	16	15
Saturday,	6th,	16	11
Thursday,	11th,	15	46
Tuesday,	16th,	14	59
Sunday,	21st,	13	54
Friday,	26th,	12	23

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon,	6th day,	at 42 m.	after 7	in the evening
Last Quarter,	13th	18	0	midnight
New Moon,	20th	1	8	in the evening
First Quarter,	28th	55	2	in the afternoon

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits are selected as affording the most suitable opportunities of observation during this month: viz.

November	1st, at	22	after 8	in the evening
	2d,	3	9	
	3d,	45	9	
	4th,	28	10	
	5th,	15	11	
	12th,	42	4	in the morning
	13th,	35	5	
	14th,	26	6	
	15th,	17	7	
	16th,	6	8	
	17th,	57	8	
	18th,	48	9	
	26th,	50	4	in the evening
	27th,	32	5	
	28th,	13	6	
	29th,	53	6	
	30th,	34	7	

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

As this beautiful planet proceeds on her course, the diminution becomes more rapid, and the follow-

ing is now the proportion of the bright and dark parts: viz.

November 1st, { Illuminated part 10·91991
Dark part ..... 1·08009

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

The following are the eclipses of the first and second of these Satellites which will be visible at the Royal Observatory this month: viz.

First Satellite	6th	day, at 10	m. 33	s. after	5 in the morning
	7th,	 38	51	.....	11 at night
	15th,	 32	6	.....	1 in the morning
	22d,	 25	21	.....	3 .....
	29th,	 18	35	.....	5 .....
	30th,	 46	55	.....	11 at night
Second Satellite	4th,	 27	2	.....	1 in the morning
	11th,	 1	57	.....	4 .....
	18th,	 36	59	.....	6 .....
	28th,	 30	17	.....	10 at night

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th.	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*	*h. m.*
Mercury	11 16 *mor.*	11 29	11 42	11 55	0 7 *aft.*
Venus	1 40 *aft.*	1 48	1 56	2 4	2 11
Mars	3 27 *aft.*	3 23	3 19	3 14	3 9
Jupiter	6 34 *mor.*	6 12	5 50	5 26	5 1
Saturn	1 55 *mor.*	1 30	1 3	0 36	0 9
G. Sidus	4 31 *aft.*	4 4	3 41	3 18	2 54
		MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.			
Mercury	29°37′	25°42′	22° 5′	18°56′	16°20′
Venus	16 43	15 25	14 21	13 42	13 30
Mars	13 40	13 42	13 53	14 14	14 45
Jupiter	56 6	55 59	55 54	55 51	55 49
Saturn	57 49	57 44	57 39	57 34	57 29
G. Sidus	15 13	15 14	15 16	15 18	15 19

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Nov. 11th,	with ♑ in Gemini ...	at	0 m.	after	11 in the morning
23d,	..... Venus		0	.....	6 .....
24th,	..... G. Sidus		0	.....	6 .....

Jupiter will be in quadrature at half past 1 in the morning of the 5th of this month. Mercury will be in conjunction with 2 ∝ in Libra at 1 in the morning

of the 11th. Mars and Georgium Sidus will be in conjunction at 11 at night on the 20th. Mercury will be in his superior conjunction at 45 m. after 11 in the morning of the 21st. Mercury will also be in conjunction with 1 β in Scorpio, at 4 in the afternoon of the 22d. Saturn will be in opposition at half past 2 in the afternoon of the 26th; and Jupiter will be stationary on the 29th.

NEW METHOD *of* SETTING SUN-DIALS.

For the use of such of our readers as may be desirous of fixing or rectifying a Sun-dial, that useful instrument so often mentioned in our pages, we insert the following easy method of accomplishing this object, which only requires the use of a good watch that will keep time for six hours. Care must be taken, in the first place, that the pillar on which the dial is to be placed is perpendicular to the horizon, which is easily proved by the plumb-line. Then ascertain by means of the spirit level that the upper surface of the pillar is perfectly horizontal; and if so, screw on the plate loosely by means of the centre screw, and bring the gnomon as nearly as possible to its proper direction. On a bright day, set the watch exactly with the dial at 9 o'clock in the morning, and at 3 in the afternoon observe the difference between them, and correct the dial to half this difference. Proceed in the same manner till the watch and dial are found to agree perfectly. Then fix the plate firmly in that situation, and the dial will be correctly set. This is obvious, for, if there were any defect, the Sun's shadow would not agree with the time indicated by the watch, both before and after he had passed the meridian.

While we gaze upon the azure firmament, with its innumerable suns, diffusing light and life, joy and pleasure, over myriads of worlds, our attention is

sometimes arrested by the sudden visit of a flaming stranger, arrived from its immeasurable journey within the reach of our optical powers. The singularity of its appearance, the rapidity of its approach, the shortness of its stay, and the uncertainty of its return, are all calculated to excite the fears of the timid, and the fancy of the poet. From the days of Homer to the present, comets have been considered by the fearful and superstitious as the harbingers of divine vengeance. Poets of all ages have availed themselves of this idea, and moulded it into all the varied forms which imagination can suggest; and among these effusions of fancy, the following undoubtedly deserves to be viewed through *Time's Telescope*:—

The COMET.

'*Regnorum eversor rubuit lethale* cometes.'

Behold! amidst yon wilderness of stars
(Angels and bright-eyed deities, that guard
The inner skies, whilst the Sun sleeps by night)
Is one unlike the rest—mishapen—red—
And wandering from its golden course. It seems
Some spirit from the nether world hath 'scaped
Heav'n's vigilance, and mixed with purer forms
To work there deeds of evil. If Sybils now
Breathed their dark oracles, or nations bent,
As once they bent, before Apollo's shrine,
And owned the frenzied priestess' anguries,
What might not this portend?—Changes, and acts
Of fear, and bloody massacres—perchance
Some sudden end to this fair-formed creation—
Or half the globe made desolate. Behold!
It glares—how like an omen. If that I
Could for a time forget myself in fable,
(Indian or Heathen storied) I could fancy
This were indeed some spirit, 'scaped by chance
From torments in the central earth, and flung
Like an eruption from the thundering breast
Of Ætna, or those mighty hills that stand
Like giants on the Quito plains, to spread
Contagion thro' the skies. Thus Satan once
Sprang up adventurous from Hell's blazing porch;
And (like a streak of fire) winged his fierce way
Ambiguous—undismayed—thro' frightful wastes,

To where, amidst the jarring elements,
Stern Chaos sate, and everlasting Night
Held her dominion—yet even there he found
The way to Eden. But away such thoughts,
Lest I, bewildered by my phantasy,
Dream of dark ills to come, and dare believe
(Shutting my eyes against the gracious light
Now given) that the ETERNAL POWER can sleep
While mischief walks the world.

Literary Gazette.

The Naturalist's Diary

For NOVEMBER 1824.

NOVEMBER's clouds are gathering round,
Dispensing darker, deeper gloom;
And Nature, as with awe profound,
Waits her irrevocable doom;
Watching the pale Sun's fitful gleam
Through the dense fogs that veil his beam. B. BARTON.

THIS is usually a wet, cold, and gloomy month; sometimes we have sharp frosty mornings, and a clear day follows; at others, storms of wind and rain confine us to the house, and admonish us in the morning to seek amusement in the well-furnished library or museum, and to devote our evenings to music and the charms of intellectual society. With these powerful antidotes to melancholy thoughts, naturally inspired by the sombre character of the season, we may listen to the 'pitiless pelting of the storm' without, and be grateful for the security and accommodation which we enjoy[1], while

Swift sweep the clouds along the blackening sky,
Loud in the wind the tossing trees resound;
The sinking gale seems ready now to die,
Now stronger swells, and strews with leaves the ground.

REV. J. BLACK.

[1] See our last volume, p. 333, for a beautiful poem on 'Domestic Happiness,' never before printed.

The naturalist, who lately contemplated the *trees* and *shrubs* in all their beauty of outline, foliage, blossoms, colours, and lights and shadows, must now contemplate them in their ramifications, *sprays*, *buds*, and *barks*, in which he will still find abundance of beauty and wonder. The *moralist* will contemplate the *withered leaves*, now thickly strewed over his path, and will give himself up to the enjoyment of tender and melancholy, but soothing thoughts.

WITHERED LEAVES.

From the Swedish of J. N. G. Akenthal.

Aye, *withered leaves*, an emblem meet, I ween,
Of early hopes—like them all withered now;
Of sunny days, and blossoms that have been
Meeter for me than yew or cypress bough;
For they, though Sorrow's emblems, are yet green,
And may no fellowship with death avow,
Save that by fancy given. But from the wreaths
Here strewed around deep inspiration breathes.

They speak, though dead, of life once bright and gay
(When o'er their dusky heaps, in mockery,
Comes floating through the clouds a transient ray),
And therefore, too, unto my watchful eye,
Even like the faint gleams of a wintry day,
Come visions of the past. Ere yet they fly,
Oh, might I, with a rash and hurried grasp,
One leaf amid the blooming scenery clasp!

Blackwood's Magazine.

The congregating of small birds, which was noticed as commencing in the last month, still continues; and the long-tailed titmouse (*parus caudatus*) is seen in troops in the tall hedge-rows. See our last volume, p. 330.

The Virginia-creeper (*hedera quinque-folia*) has now a very rich and beautiful appearance.

The stock-dove (*columba œnas*), one of the latest winter birds of passage, arrives from more northern regions, towards the end of this month. *Moles* now make their nests, in which they lodge during the winter, and which are ready for depositing their young in the spring.

Mushrooms (*fungi*) are collected in abundance this month. See the Supplement to Mr. *Purton's Midland Flora*, with twenty-two accurate and beautifully coloured plates.

None of the circumstances incidental to the autumnal months are more striking, or more productive of fearful delight or philosophic enthusiasm, than the appearance of those *scintillating meteors* which so often traverse the earth during the evenings of this portion of the year, or of those infinitely more brilliant coruscations which shoot along the upper regions of the air, and illumine the whole cope of heaven. In the eye of superstition they are connected with associations which create that solemn dread, that shuddering meek, submitting thought, so strangely pleasing to the mind of man, but which are sometimes mingled with feelings of the utmost alarm, originating in a belief that these portentous lights, as they are deemed, are but the forerunners of disease or death, of pestilence or war; whilst, in the contemplation of calm and sober reason, they are beheld as only fresh excitements to research, and fresh objects for rational admiration.

With the first class of these meteoric appearances, indeed, are sometimes blended illusions which, as having led to fatal accidents, have given additional terrors to the scene, and have stamped the credulity and traditions of the neighbourhood with a deeper tinge of supernatural horror. To a catastrophe of this kind, as occurring on a dark evening in Autumn, we are indebted for one of the most striking sketches in the 'Seasons' of Thomson. He is enumerating the phenomena incident to the latest period of the autumnal quarter, and, on mentioning the vast and quenching glooms which, at this time of the year, brood over the earth as the evening closes in, he finely and most impressively records the fate of a belated peasant, terminating his description with a

picture which appeals, in a very powerful degree, to the tenderest sympathies of the heart.

> Drear is the state of the benighted wretch,
> Who then, bewildered, wanders through the dark,
> Full of pale fancies, and chimeras huge;
> Nor visited by one directive ray,
> From cottage streaming, or from airy hall.
> Perhaps impatient as he stumbles on,
> Struck from the root of slimy rushes, blue,
> The *wild-fire* scatters round, or gathered trails,
> A length of flame deceitful o'er the moss:
> Whither decoyed by the fantastic blaze,
> Now lost and now renewed, he sinks absorpt,
> Rider and horse, amid the miry gulph:
> While still, from day to day, his pining wife
> And plaintive children his return await,
> In wild conjecture lost.

The general impression, however, which the phenomena of this season are fitted to convey, whether operating on the fears and feelings of the uneducated mind, or the cultivated intellect of the scholar and the philosopher, is one that, from its peculiar character, must lead to good. When we hear the winds of heaven rushing round us, viewless yet resistless in their course, it is scarcely possible not to prostrate ourselves with deep humility before the throne of that Almighty Being who wields, directs, and limits their career; an element that, if let loose on this firm globe, would winnow it to dust.

Again, when we behold the birds that wing their way through this immeasurable void, through what vast tracks and undiscovered paths they seek their distant food; with what love and gratitude should we not reflect, that if He in mercy has become their pilot and their guide, how much more will He prove to us a sure and never-failing protector.

And, lastly, when we turn our eyes from earth, its falling leaves and fading aspect, its gathering gloom and treacherous meteors, to that great and glorious vault where burn the steady lamps of heaven, or

where, shooting into interminable space, flow streams of inextinguishable lustre, we are almost instinctively reminded, that here our days are numbered; that on this low planet brief is the time the oldest being lives; and that, passing from this transitory state, we are destined to pursue our course in regions of ever-during light, in worlds of never-changing beauty[1].

The cloudless glory of morn's sky,
Which ushers in a beauteous day,
What time the viewless lark, on high,
Chaunts forth his cheerful lay,
Is beautiful; but clouds, and showers,
And mists, although they may appear
Less lovely than those sun-bright hours,
To Nature are as dear.

The lavish luxury of SPRING,
When flowers are bursting into bloom;
And tints upon an insect's wing
Out-rival Ormus' loom;
The SUMMER's radiance;—AUTUMN's sway
Of matron majesty and grace;
Enchant in turn, then pass away,
And give stern WINTER place.

Thus is it with the outward frame
Of wondrous Nature; changing still,
And yet unchangeably the same—
Obedient to His will,
Alike in ev'ry season shown,
As each proclaims its AUTHOR's praise;
Nor is this silent in the tone
Of Winter's stormiest days.

No; in the voice of *mighty winds*,
At intervals to stillness awed,
Has it not seemed, to thoughtful minds,
A SPIRIT was abroad?
And thus the same ETERNAL POWER,
Though viewless unto mortal eye,
When skies are bright, when tempests lower,
Is still for ever nigh[2]!

[1] See *Dr. Drake's Evenings in Autumn*, vol. i, p. 20.
[2] B. Barton's 'Napoleon, and other Poems,' p. 175.

DECEMBER.

Remarkable Days

In DECEMBER 1824.

DECEMBER closes on the scene,
And what appear the *months* gone past?
Fragments of time which once *have been!*
Succeeding slowly, fled too fast!
Their minutes, hours, and days appear
Viewless in that small point, A YEAR.

B. BARTON.

***1. 1783.—FIRST AËROSTATIC ATTEMPT,**

BY M. Charles, a physician and distinguished member of the French *Institut*, who died lately at Paris. It will be recollected that this individual has given his name to future ages as the first man who had the boldness to ascend into the element of air. It is now forty years since M. CHARLES performed this extraordinary exploit; and his whole life from that period has been devoted to scientific inquiries. The progress made in Aërostatics has certainly not gratified the sanguine expectations entertained at the time when the first Aëronaut (since Icarus) tried his adventurous flight; but, with the grand discoveries now making in chemistry, it may not be too much to hope that the most important of them may very speedily be realized.

***2. 1819.—REV. J. W. EASTBURN DIED,**

Known, in America, as the author of an elegant poem, entitled *Yamoyden;* a tale of the wars of King Philip, written before the age of twenty. The following is a specimen of the poem on a subject interesting to all:—

WOMAN.

Woman! blest partner of our joys and woes!
Even in the darkest hour of earthly ill,
Untarnished yet, thy fond affection glows,
Throbs with each pulse, and beats with every thrill!

Bright o'er the wasted scene thou hoverest still,
Angel of comfort to the failing soul;
Undaunted by the tempest, wild and chill,
That pours its restless and disastrous roll
O'er all that blooms below, with sad and hollow howl!

When sorrow rends the heart, when feverish pain
Wrings the hot drops of anguish from the brow,
To soothe the soul, to cool the burning brain,
O, who so welcome and so prompt as thou!
The battle's hurried scene, and angry glow,—
The death-encircled pillow of distress,—
The lonely moments of secluded woe,—
Alike thy care and constancy confess,
Alike thy pitying hand and fearless friendship bless.

Thee youthful fancy loves in aid to call;
Thence first invoked the sacred sisters were;
The form that holds th' enthusiast's heart in thrall,
He, mid his bright creation, paints most fair;—
True,—in this earthly wilderness of care,—
As hunter's path the wilds and forests through;
And firm,—all fragile as thou art,—to bear
Life's dangerous billows,—as the light canoe,
That shoots, with all its freight, the impetuous rapids' flow.

6.—SAINT NICHOLAS.

Nicholas was Bishop of Myra, in Lycia, and died about the year 392. He was of so charitable a disposition, that he portioned three young women, who were reduced in circumstances, by secretly conveying a sum of money into their father's house.—The annual ceremony of the *boy bishop*, once observed on this day, is described at length in T.T. for 1814, p. 306.

*7. 1822.—JOHN AIKIN, M.D., DIED.

The literary character of the late Dr. Aikin has been long known to the public by the various and useful works which, during the course of a long and active life, have proceeded from his pen. Few men have made such available and substantial contributions to the general store of knowledge; for in all his employments he appears to have been governed by a spirit of utility, which led him, in his literary exertions, to follow those more modest pursuits which are

productive rather of general benefit to the community, than of personal celebrity to the individual. Real information and positive instruction are conveyed in all his writings, which at the same time are rendered agreeable by the correct taste which often illustrates and adorns them. As a literary man, the public have long since formed and pronounced their opinion upon his merits, but the excellence of his personal character was known only to the circle of his friends. We rejoice, therefore, at the publication of the 'Memoir of his Life,' in 2 vols. 8vo, by the elegant biographist of Elizabeth and James; as she displays, in a modest and pleasing manner, the many valuable qualities which the subject of it possessed, and which cannot fail to raise his character as an *individual* to the same honourable station which he has long occupied as an AUTHOR.

8.—CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

This festival was instituted by Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, because William the Conqueror's fleet, being in a storm, afterwards came safe to shore. The council of Oxford, however, held in 1222, permitted every one to use his discretion in keeping it.

13.—SAINT LUCY.

This virgin martyr was born at Syracuse. She refused to marry a young man who paid his addresses to her, because she had determined to devote herself to religion, and, to prevent his importunities, gave her whole fortune to the poor. The youth, enraged at this denial, accused her before Paschasius, the heathen judge, of professing Christianity; and Lucy, after much cruel treatment, fell a martyr to his revenge, in the year 305.

*15. 1823.—FALL OF SNOW IN JAMAICA.

The remarkable phenomenon of a fall of snow in Jamaica occurred at Annotto Bay, on this day. The flakes fell to within a few feet of the earth, where they recoiled a little upwards from the heat of its evaporation, and dissolved into liquid drops.

16.—O SAPIENTIA.

This is the beginning of an anthem in the Latin service to the honour of Christ's advent, which used to be sung in the church from this day until Christmas-eve.

21.—SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE.

Thomas, surnamed *Didymus*, or the Twin, was a Jew, and in all probability a *Galilean*. There are but few passages in the gospel concerning him. Thomas is said to have suffered martyrdom in the same city, being killed by the lances of some people instigated by the Bramins.

This is the *shortest* day, and is, at London, 7 h. 44 m. 17 s.; allowing 9 m. 5 s. for refraction.

Dost thou know the price of a day, an hour, or a minute? Didst thou ever examine the value of time? If thou hadst, thou wouldst employ it better, and not spend so many happy opportunities upon trifles; and so easily and so insensibly part with so inestimable a treasure. What is become of thy past hours? Have they made thee a promise to come again when thou callest for them? or canst thou show me which way they went? No, no; they are gone without recovery, and in their flight, methinks, TIME seems to turn his head, and laugh over his shoulder in derision at those that made no better use of him, when they had him. Dost thou know that all the minutes of our life are but as so many links of a chain that has death at the extremity; and every moment brings thee nearer thy expected dissolution? Perchance while the word is speaking, it may be at thy very door. How stupid is he who dies while he lives, for fear of dying! How insensible is he that lives as if he should never die, and only fears death when he comes to feel it!—QUEVEDO, *Vision* 5.

To-morrow you will live, you always cry;
In what far country does this morrow lie,
That 'tis so mighty long ere it arrive?
Beyond the Indies does this morrow live?

'Tis so far-fetched this morrow, that I fear
'Twill be both very old and very dear.
To-morrow I will live, the fool does say;
To-day itself 's too late; the wise lived yesterday!
Martial, by Cowley, lib. v, 48.

*23. 1822.—SINGULAR CEREMONY.

This day, according to annual custom, a quantity of bread and cheese was thrown from the belfry of Paddington Church, among the populace. This custom is said to have its origin in the will of two sisters (paupers), who, travelling to London to claim an estate, in which they succeeded, and being much distressed, were first relieved in the parish of Paddington.

25.—CHRISTMAS DAY.

This is named *Christmas-day*, from the Latin *Christi Missa*, the Mass of Christ, and hence the Roman Catholic Liturgy is termed their *Missal*, or *Mass Book*. About the year 500, the observation of this day became general in the Catholic church.

Christmas is a most interesting commemorative æra, and from the earliest times when first the sacred light of Christianity dawned upon the world, this season of the year has ever been devoted to joy and pleasure.

Now many
A FEAST is held, where, full of mirth,
Come, crowding thick as flowers that play
In summer winds, the young and gay
And beautiful.

At this heart-rejoicing season, the annual assembling of families and connections, the old and the young, the meeting of friends—and the reconciling of those who are *not* friends (at least for one day in the year), give an interest to the annual celebration of Christmas, which no other festival possesses; and this is more particularly apparent in many parts of the country, where the simple habits of our forefathers have not been vitiated by an acquaintance with the inmates of that lazar-house, full of 'dire toss-

ing and deep groans'—that Temple of Despair—(and of Hope), man's trial-piece in *mosaic*, of good and evil —*a great and overgrown* METROPOLIS. Much, however, as we enjoy these convivial meetings, these effusions of heart and soul, these *re-unions* of holiday faces which take the resolution of wearing a smile for *one* whole day, we fear that their bright sunshine is but too often darkened by the murky clouds of excess—when riots and quarrels take the place of enjoyment and hilarity.

> Sad mimickry of mirth and life,
> Whose flashes come but from the strife
> Of inward passions.—Like the light
> Struck out by clashing swords in fight.

Pity, that the choicest, best gifts of Heaven should be converted into curses instead of blessings—and that man should so degrade himself as to be placed *below* 'the beasts that perish,' over whom he has been beneficently appointed a 'lord and master!' That 'juice of earth,' *wine*, the *second* solace of our terrene pilgrimage—('lovely woman' always being the first), may be truly designated, with the poet, as 'the bane'

> And blessing of man's heart and brain.—
> A draught of sorcery, which brings
> Phantoms of fair, forbidden things—
> Whose drops, like those of rainbows, smile
> Upon the mists that circle man,
> Bright'ning not only earth the while,
> But grasping heaven, too, in their span.

In our last volume (p. 337) are some remarks on the antient celebration of Christmas in England, with a 'poetical bill of fare' of the *substantial* entertainments given in the days of good King Arthur. In continuation of the subject, we introduce some further particulars of early customs long since washed away by the overwhelming torrents of fastidious delicacy and modern refinement.

Westmorland, in by-gone times, before the invention of Sunday newspapers, when religious and poli-

tical disputations and subscriptions were unknown among 'England's' brave peasantry, 'her country's pride'—boasted many fine, hearty, hospitable customs at Christmas. At this period, the treat circulated from house to house; *Ale-possets* constituted a favourite part of these festivities, and were given to strangers for breakfast, as the enervating beverage of tea was then unknown. They were served up in bowls called *doublers*, into which the company dipped their spoons promiscuously. The pewter *posset-cup* shone as an article of finery in the better sort of houses; it was furnished with two, three, or more lateral pipes through which the liquid part of the mixture might be taken by those who did not choose the bread. In the mean while, malt liquor was drunk out of wooden cans and horns. The old people sat down and conversed together, while the younger part exhibited themselves as maskers, among whom the *clown* was the most conspicuous character. Parties of *rapier dancers* sometimes displayed their dexterity in the use of the small sword; while many of the young people amused themselves in 'hunting the rolling pin,' and with other mirthful pastimes.

At *Abbot's Bromley*, in *Staffordshire*, a curious custom formerly prevailed, called '*the Hobby Horse*;' it was generally celebrated at *Christmas*, on New Year's Day, and Twelfth Day, when a person, carrying between his legs the figure of a horse made of thin boards, danced through the street, having a bow and arrow in his hands, the latter of which passed through a hole in the bow, and, stopping it on a shoulder, made a snapping noise when drawn to and fro, by which means he kept time with the music. Five or six other persons, also dancing, accompanied this individual, each carrying six deers' heads on his shoulder, painted with the arms of the different families who had been proprietors of the manor: all those friendly to this sport, and coming to see it, subscribed a trifle, by which means refreshments were

purchased, the poor supported, and the church kept in repair.—For an account of antient Christmas ceremonies in *Yorkshire*, *Cornwall*, and *Devonshire*, we must refer to T. T. for 1822, pp. 298 et seq.; see also a translation of a fine, old Anglo-Norman Carol, in pp. 302, 303.

In *Cumberland*, and in all the great towns in the north of England, about a week before Christmas, what are called *Honey-fairs* are held, in which dancing forms the leading amusement. Companies of *sword-dancers*, an exercise which we have described in our former volumes, are still to be found in the northern counties at this time of the year.

Of *Christmas within Doors*, as it is still kept in the *North of Germany*, we have a pleasing description by Mr. COLERIDGE, in his very entertaining collection of Essays called the FRIEND. Writing from *Ratzeburg*, Mr. Coleridge says, there is a Christmas custom here which pleased and interested me. 'The children make little presents to their parents, and to each other; and the parents to the children. For three or four months before Christmas the girls are all busy, and the boys save up their pocket-money, to make or purchase these presents. What the present is to be, is cautiously kept secret, and the girls have a world of contrivances to conceal it—such as working when they are out on visits and the others are not with them; getting up in the morning before daylight, &c. Then on the evening before Christmas-day one of the parlours is lighted up by the children, into which the parents must not go; a great yew bough is fastened on the table at a little distance from the wall; a multitude of little tapers are fixed in the bough, but not so as to burn it till they are nearly consumed, and coloured paper, &c. hangs and flutters from the twigs. Under this bough the children lay out in great order the presents they mean for their parents, still concealing in their pockets

what they intend for each other. Then the parents are introduced, and each presents his little gift; they then bring out the remainder, one by one, from their pockets, and present them with kisses and embraces. Where I witnessed this scene, there were eight or nine children, and the eldest daughter and the mother wept aloud for joy and tenderness; and the tears ran down the face of the father, and he clasped all his children so tight to his breast, it seemed as if he did it to stifle the sob that was rising within him. I was very much affected. The shadow of the bough and its appendages on the wall, and arching over on the ceiling, made a pretty picture; and then the raptures of the *very* little ones, when at last the twigs and their needles began to take fire and *snap*—O, it was a delight for them!—On the next day, in the great parlour, the parents lay out on the table the presents for the children: a scene of more sober joy succeeds, as on this day, after an old custom, the mother says privately to each of her daughters, and the father to his sons, that which he has observed most praiseworthy and that which was most faulty in their conduct. Formerly, and still in all the smaller towns and villages throughout North Germany, these presents were sent by all the parents to some one fellow, who in high buskins, a white robe, a mask, and an enormous flax wig, personates Knecht Rupert, i. e. the servant Rupert. On Christmas night he goes round to every house, and says, that Jesus Christ, his Master, sent him thither. The parents and elder children receive him with great pomp and reverence, while the little ones are most terribly frightened. He then inquires for the children, and, according to the character which he hears from the parent, he gives them the intended present, as if they came out of Heaven from Jesus Christ. Or, if they should have been bad children, he gives the parents a rod, and, in the name of his master, re-

commends them to use it frequently. About seven or eight years old the children are let into the secret, and it is curious how faithfully they keep it.'

Of the celebration of *Christmas Eve and Day* at *Rome*, we are enabled to furnish our readers with a lively description from the MS. Journal of a friend who lately witnessed these ceremonies:—

'On *Christmas-eve*, at midnight, service is performed in the Sextine chapel. On its termination, when I observed the gallery which overlooks the chapel, and is appropriated to the curious, it strongly recalled to my mind the front box of a theatre; this sentiment is by no means lessened on beholding the spacious and elegant saloons and anti-chambers, crowded with ladies fashionably attired, the grand staircase brilliantly lighted up, the cardinals robed in their purple vestments, and surrounded by their numerous attendants. On descending, the Pope's halbertmen, in their old-fashioned Spanish dresses, the rattling of wheels, and the numerous carriages that fill the area in front of the church, servants bawling out for them, and masters looking for their equipages, give the scene rather the semblance of the close of a masquerade than a religious ceremony. On such an occasion, especially if the night happens to be dark, the light, which is reflected from the numerous flambeaux on the fountains which play in the middle of the colonnade, has an infinitely grand effect, and gives them the appearance of streams sparkling with liquid fire.

'On *Christmas-day*, his Holiness performs mass in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, in the church of St. Peter. On this day, in 1822, several small *loges*, resembling booths, covered with striped silk, were erected in the chancel, to the right of the entrance, for the accommodation of foreign kings, princes, and other distinguished characters. In the great aisle, on the same side, in a sort of inclosed space resembling the pit of a theatre, elevated forms were

arranged for the *English ladies*. The papal body-guard entered, and formed a line on each side of the chancel. It is at present all composed of young nobility, their uniform rich and elegant, consisting of scarlet and gold, with embroidered cross belts and pouches. A distant solemn sound of trumpets announced that the Father of the Christian Church was approaching. Seated in a chair, from the shafts of which a rich embroidered silken drapery descended, and completely screened from view those that carried him, he slowly advanced, and almost seemed borne forward by the agency of supernatural power: he appeared absorbed in thought and contemplation; meek, humble, and unassuming.

'The ceremony was grand and imposing; the music, which was adequate to the occasion, was entirely vocal, none other being allowed in this church. If there was any thing displeasing, it was the conduct of a few ill-bred and ignorant strangers, who, where so much courtesy was shown to them, did not demonstrate a proper sense of feeling, by omitting to kneel on the elevation of the host. Indeed, it was not even required of them. But, when all were in the act of adoration, their remaining in a standing position might be attributed to any other motive than religious scruples.'

It was the custom in Spain, thirty or forty years since, particularly in *Andalusia*, among families of fortune, to prepare, for an almost public exhibition, one or two rooms of the house, where, upon a clumsy imitation of rocks and mountains, a great number of baby-houses and clay figures, imitating the commonest actions of life, were placed amidst a multitude of lamps and tapers. A ruinous stable, surrounded by sheep and cattle, was seen in the front of the room, with the figures of Joseph, Mary, and some shepherds, kneeling in adoration of the child in the manger—an act which an ass and an ox imitated with the greatest composure. This collection

of puppets, called *Nacimiento*, is still, though seldom intended for show, set up in many houses, both for the amusement and the religious gratification of the family and their more intimate friends. At the period just mentioned, the *Nacimientos* were made a pretext for collecting a large party, and passing several nights in dancing, and in some of the national amusements described in the account of the *Carnival* (p. 63).

The room being illuminated after sunset, not only the friends of the family were entitled to enjoy the festivities of the evening, but any gentleman, giving his name at the door, might introduce one or more ladies, who, if but known by sight to the master of the house, would be requested to join in the amusements which followed. These were singing, dancing, and, not unfrequently, speeches, taken from the old Spanish plays, and known by the name of *Relaciones*. Recitation was considered till lately as an accomplishment both in males and females; and persons who were known to be skilled in that art, stood up, at the request of the company, to deliver a speech, with all the gesticulation of the old school, just as others gratified their friends by performing upon an instrument. A slight refreshment of the Christmas cakes, called *oxaldres*, and sweet wines or home-made *liqueurs*, was enough to free the house from the imputation of meanness: thus mirth and society were obtained at a moderate expense. But the present *Nacimientos* seldom afford amusement to strangers; and with the exception of singing carols to the sound of the *zambomba*, little remains of the old festivities. This is general in most parts of Spain at this season, though never used at any other. A slender shoot of reed (*arundo donax*) is fixed in the centre of a piece of parchment, without perforating the skin, which, softened by moisture, is tied, like a drum-head, round the mouth of a large earthen jar: the parchment, when dry, acquires a great tension.

and the reed, being slightly covered with wax, allows the clenched hand to glide up and down, producing a deep hollow sound of the same kind as that which proceeds from the tambourin when rubbed with the middle finger.

The church service on Christmas Eve begins at ten in the night, and lasts till five in the morning. This custom is observed by every church in the town; nor does their number, or the unseasonableness of the hour, leave the service unattended in any. The music at the cathedral of Seville is excellent. It is at present confined to part of the Latin prayers, but was, till within a few years, used in a species of dramatic interludes in the vulgar tongue, which were sung, not acted, at certain intervals of the service. These pieces had the name of *Villancicos*, from *Villano*, a clown, shepherds and shepherdesses being the interlocutors in these pastorals. The words, printed at the expense of the Chapter, were distributed to the public, who still regret the loss of the wit and humour of the swains of Bethlehem.

The custom of the country requires a formal call, between Christmas and Twelfth-Day, on all one's acquaintance; and tables are placed in the house squares, or *Patios*, to receive the cards of the visitors. Presents of sweetmeats are common between friends; and patients send to their *medical attendants* the established acknowledgment of a *turkey;* so that doctors in great practice open a kind of public market for the disposal of their poultry. These turkeys are driven in flocks by gipseys, who patiently walk in the rear of the ungovernable phalanxes, from several parts of Old Castile, and chiefly from Salamanca. The march which they perform is of no less than four hundred miles, and lasts about one half of the year. The turkeys, which are brought from the farmers mere chickens, acquire their full growth, like our fashionables, in travelling, and seeing the world.—(*Doblado's Letters*, p. 324).

26.—SAINT STEPHEN.

Stephen was the first deacon chosen by the apostles. He was cited before the Sanhedrin, or Jewish Council, for prophecying the fall of the Jewish Temple and economy; and while vindicating his doctrine by several passages of the Old Testament, he was violently carried out of the city, and stoned to death, in the year 33.

27.—JOHN EVANGELIST.—*See* p. 169.

28.—INNOCENTS.

The slaughter of the Jewish children, by Herod, is commemorated on this day. The festival is very antient, for Tertullian and Saint Cyprian call these Innocents martyrs, and Prudentius has written a hymn upon the subject. *Childermas*-day is another name for this feast.

LIFE'S PILOT.

The Pilot o'er the briny seas
His gallant bark in safety bears;
The treach'rous rocks, and threat'ning waves,
His fearless heart advent'rous dares;
He points the quicksands, shuns the shoals,
By some known beacon steering,
And oft amidst the dang'rous reefs
He sings, the helmsman cheering—
Steady, my hearty, steady.

A mother thus her *infant* leads
Through thorny paths with anxious care,
And daily forms his pliant mind
The ills of stormy life to bear;
And, with a parent's gentle hand
Through syren pleasures steering,
She points the path to virtuous fame,
And sings, her infant cheering—
Steady, my darling, steady.

The world's wide ocean spread around,
He views his course with dauntless heart,
And when the rocks of doubt arise,
Turns to his faithful pilot's chart;

Thus all his days with honour glide,
By Truth's bright beacon steering,
Pursues through life unsullied fame,
Unerring conscience, cheering—
Steady, my worthy, steady. K.

31.—SAINT SILVESTER.

He was Bishop of Rome; and succeeded Miltiades in the papacy, in 314. Silvester is accounted the author of several rites and ceremonies of the Romish church, as asylums, unctions, palls, corporals, mitres, &c. He died in 334.

*DEC. 1805.—PETER WOULFE, ALCHEMIST, DIED.

Here's the rich Peru,
And there within, sir, are the golden mines,
Great Solomon's Ophir! He was sailing to't
Three years, but we have reached it in ten months.
This is the day wherein to all my friends
I will pronounce the happy word, *Be Rich*.

This night I'll change
All that is metal in thy house to gold:
And early in the morning will I send
To all the plumbers and the pewterers,
And buy their tin and lead up; and to Lothbury
For all the copper.
Yes, and I'll purchase Devonshire and Cornwall,
And make them perfect Indies.

JONSON'S ALCHEMIST.

The transmutation of the baser metals into gold and silver, which was the chief, and, in most cases, the only object of the genuine alchemists, was not merely regarded as possible, but believed to have been performed by some of the more enlightened chemists of the seventeenth century. The race of the alchemists is now probably extinct. One of the last true believers in this art was Peter Woulfe, of whom it is to be regretted that no biographical memoir has been preserved. The following anecdotes were picked up from two or three friends who were his acquaintance. He occupied chambers in Barnard's Inn, while residing in London, and usually spent the summer in Paris. His rooms, which were extensive, were so

filled with furnaces and apparatus, that it was difficult to reach his fireside. He once put down his hat, and never could find it again; such was the confusion of boxes, packages, and parcels that lay about the chamber. His breakfast-hour was *four in the morning:* a few of his select friends were occasionally invited to this repast, to whom a secret signal was given, by which they gained entrance, knocking a certain number of times at the inner door of his apartment.

He had long vainly searched for the *elixir*, and attributed his repeated failures to the want of due preparation by pious and charitable acts. Some part of his apparatus, we understand, is still extant, upon which are supplications for success, and for the welfare of the adepts. Whenever he wished to break an acquaintance, or felt himself offended, he resented the supposed injury by *sending a present* to the offender, and never seeing him afterwards. These presents were sometimes of a curious description, and consisted usually of some expensive chemical product or preparation. He had an heroic remedy for illness: when he felt himself seriously indisposed, *he took a place in the Edinburgh Mail,* and, having reached that city, immediately came back in the returning coach to London. A cold taken on one of these expeditions terminated in an inflammation of the lungs, of which he died.

Astronomical Occurrences

In DECEMBER 1824.

'*These are thy glorious Works,*' Almighty Sire!
Whose Spirit warms us in the solar fire;
In their vast orbits rolls the ponderous spheres,
And leads in radiant march the circling years.

MAURICE.

Solar Phenomena.

The Sun enters Capricornus at 2m. after 8 in the evening of the 21st of this month. There will be an

eclipse of the Sun on the morning of the 20th, but the eclipse will be *invisible* here. The circumstances are as follow: viz.

Conjunction at 40 m. 30 s. after 10
In longitude ... 8 s. 28° 35′
Moon's latitude 9½′ South.

The Sun will be centrally eclipsed on the meridian at 40 m. 45 s. past 10, in longitude 19° 50¼′ east, and latitude 38° 8½′ south. The Sun also rises and sets, during the same period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

December 1st,	Sun rises	56 m. after	7.	Sets	4 m. after 4
6th,	1	8		59	3
11th,	5	8		55	3
16th,	7	8		53	3
21st,	8	8		52	3
26th,	7	8		53	3
31st,	5	8		55	3

Equation of Time.

The quantities in the following Table being used as directed, the results will be the respective times that should be shown by a well regulated clock, at the same moments for which the corrections are used.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

			m.	s.
Wednesday, Dec.	1st,	from the time by the dial *subt.*	10	37
Monday,	6th,		8	26
Saturday,	11th,		6	22
Thursday,	16th,		3	58
Tuesday,	21st,		1	29
Sunday,	26th,	to the time by the dial *add*	1	2
Friday,	31st,		3	28

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon, ...	6th day, at	25 m.	after	10	in the morning
Last Quarter,	13th,	44		7	
New Moon, ..	20th,	40		10	
First Quarter,	28th,	18		0	in the afternoon

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

Our youthful readers who wish to observe the Moon's transits this month will have an opportunity of doing so at the following times, should the weather prove clear: viz.

December	1st,	at 16 m.	after 8	in the evening
	2d,	... 0	9	.....
	3d,	... 48	9	.....
	4th,	... 40	10	.....
	5th,	... 35	11	.....
	12th,	... 5	5	in the morning
	13th,	... 54	5	.....
	14th,	... 43	6	.....
	15th,	... 33	7	.....
	16th,	... 24	8	.....
	17th,	... 18	9	.....
	26th,	... 36	4	in the evening
	27th,	... 16	5	.....
	28th,	... 57	5	.....
	29th,	... 39	6	.....
	30th,	... 25	7	.....
	31st,	... 13	8	.....

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

The phases of this planet have the following relations to each other at the commencement of this month; viz.

December 1st, { Illuminated part 10·22161
Dark part ..... 1·77839

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Such of our readers as have the means of observing the eclipses of these small bodies, and are inclined to use them this month, will have opportunities of doing so at the following times, when the eclipses will be visible in this country:—

Immersions

First Satellite,	... 8th day,	at 40 m.	11 s.	after	1	in the morning
	15th	33 ...	38		3	.....
	16th	1 ...	47		10	at night
	22d	26 ...	49		5	in the morning
	28d	55 ...	9		11	at night
	31st	48 ...	34		1	in the morning
Second Satellite,	6th	5 ...	47		1	.....
	13th	41 ...	27		3	.....
	20th	17 ...	17		6	.....
	30th	10 ...	55		10	at night

Form of Saturn's Ring.

The form of this ring oscillates between certain limits; and the following is the proportion of the two axes at the beginning of this month: viz.

December 1st, { Transverse axis ..... 1·000
Conjugate axis ..... — 0·477

TABLE

Of the Transits and Meridional Altitudes of the Planets.

	1st	7th	13th	19th	25th
		TRANSITS.			
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	0 23 *aft.*	0 38	0 53	1 7	1 19
Venus	2 18 *aft.*	2 24	2 29	2 34	2 37
Mars	3 3 *aft.*	2 57	2 50	2 43	2 35
Jupiter	4 36 *mor.*	4 9	3 42	3 15	2 47
Saturn	11 37 *night*	11 9	10 40	10 12	9 44
G. Sidus	2 33 *aft.*	2 4	1 40	1 10	0 50
	MERIDIONAL ALTITUDES.				
Mercury	14°25′	13°14′	12°53′	13°26′	14°15′
Venus	13 45	14 27	15 34	17 6	18 59
Mars	15 26	16 15	17 14	18 21	19 37
Jupiter	55 50	55 53	55 58	56 5	56 12
Saturn	57 24	57 20	57 15	57 11	57 8
G. Sidus	15 21	15 23	15 25	15 27	15 29

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Dec. 8th, with ♄ in Gemini at 0 m. after 6 in the evening
18th, ... ♄ in Scorpio..... 0 ..... 7 in the morning
21st, ... G. Sidus ..... 0 ..... 6 in the evening

Venus and Georgium Sidus will be in conjunction with each other at 9 in the evening on the 3d of this month. Mars and Venus will also be in conjunction with each other at 10 in the evening on the 24th; and Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 31st.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STARRY HEAVENS.

[Concluded from p. 266]

PISCES (♓), *the Fishes.*

THIS is the last sign in the fixed zodiac, and consequently that with which our year terminates. The

Sun enters it about the 19th of February, when the Earth is just passing into Virgo. If we reckon by the visible zodiac, this sign has taken the place of Aries, and has therefore become the leader of the heavenly hosts. In this way of considering the subject, the Sun does not enter Pisces till about the 6th of March.

Fable identifies this sign of the *Fishes* with Venus and Cupid, who are said to have transformed themselves on the banks of the Euphrates, to avoid the persecution of Typhon. Grecian mythology, however, appears to have nothing to do with this sign, which is found in Sir William Jones's Indian zodiac, in some of the Egyptian fragments, and in the zodiacs of Esne and Dendera. All the constellations, which are considered as noxious, are seen above the horizon while the Sun is in Pisces. It is then that *Sagitta* rises; that *Scorpius*, according to Columella, begins to set, accompanied with tempests; and that Andromeda, not yet rescued by Perseus, regards *Cetus* the monster that threatens to devour her. But this is not all; the descent of *Pisces* is fixed by Columella for the 14th of the ides of October; consequently their disappearance was the prelude to the passage of the Sun to the sign of *Scorpius*, when the terrible reign of *Typhon* commenced. And such is probably the only philosophical solution that can be given of the fable respecting the origin of the twelfth sign of the zodiac. The influence of this sign was alway considered as of the most malignant character. The astrological calendar describes the emblems accompanying it as the instruments of violence and death. The Syrians and Egyptians abstained from eating fish, which they held in great abhorrence; so much so, that when the Egyptians, in their hieroglyphics, wished to represent any thing as odious, they painted a fish.

Pisces is bounded on the north by Andromeda; on the east by Aries and triangulum; on the south

by Cetus; and on the west by Aquarius and Pegasus. It contains 113 stars, one of which is of the 3d magnitude, five of the 4th, &c. The largest star is situated in the knot of the riband which connects the two fishes, and near the neck of Cetus; that is, near the south-east extremity of the sign. Its declination is 1° 52′ 18″; its right ascension is 28° 14′ 3″; and its meridian altitude 40° 20′ 48″. It first makes its appearance in the east part of the horizon at London; and rose and culminated on the first of each month, in 1820, as in the following list.

	Rose.			*Culminated.*		
	h.	*m.*		*h.*	*m.*	
January	1	8	*aft.*	7	15	*aft.*
February	10	45	*mor.*	5	0	.....
March...	8	50	.....	3	15	.....
April.....	6	50	.....	1	15	.....
May.....	5	5	.....	11	20	*mor.*
June.....	3	0	.....	9	10	.....
July.....	1	0	*mor.*	7	3	*mor.*
August.	11	0	*aft.*	5	0	.....
Sept.....	9	0	.....	3	0	.....
October	7	15	.....	1	15	.....
Novemb.	5	20	.....	11	20	*aft.*
Decemb.	3	20	.....	9	20	.....

We cannot easily form any diagram from the stars in this constellation by which it can be readily distinguished; it must therefore be sought by means of the bounding signs above described. When Pisces begins to rise, which is about the beginning of December, Scorpio is then declining from the meridian towards the west; Antares is nearly south-west; while Hercules is between it and the zenith. Capella is directly north and about 9° above the horizon. Cygnus and Lyra are between the zenith and the east. When ∝ in Pisces sets in the west, about the 20th of July, Cancer is on the meridian, Virgo is rising in the east, Cygnus and the Lynx are in the zenith. Gemini is immediately west of the south; Orion is south-west, and Taurus west by south; and Andromeda north-west.—Thus have we presented our readers with a brief view of the zodiacal signs, and for the others we must refer them to the *Celestial Atlas*, already quoted.

We cannot conclude our annual endeavours to raise the mind of the diligent student above this scene of terrestrial things, without once more calling his attention to a parting glance at the *Starry Heavens*, which, to the superficial gaze of the careless observer, present merely a promiscuous assemblage of shining atoms, and scarcely excite a moment's reflection. But to the more attentive observer, they display a scene of such exquisite harmony and regularity, as fills the mind with delight and astonishment; and how are these increased when we reflect, that all these vast moving bodies are regulated by one general law! It was this consideration which induced the celebrated M. Lambert to exclaim, as he viewed this universe of wonders, 'What a delightful, what an enchanting spectacle is this immense machine, which goes on and maintains its infinitely diversified motions by the most simple of all laws, by the sole principle of gravitation! This is the master-piece of creative intelligence, and an object of admiration to men and angels!'

In directing Time's Telescope to the STARRY HEAVENS, and exhibiting the chief *Occurrences* of the year to the attention of our youthful readers, we have neither been unconscious of the pleasure we have derived from the survey, nor unmindful of that which they may draw from the same source.—Pleasure, too, unallied to remorse, and big with improvement; calculated at once to raise the mind above the low objects of sense, and banish the prejudices of ignorance and superstition, by inspiring more correct views of the immeasurable distance between the creature and the Creator.—Yes; raise but your eyes to a survey of the nocturnal scene, and suffer the mind to dwell upon the sentiments of the following lines; and the consequence must be more exalted ideas of Infinite Wisdom and Goodness, and more debasing views of self. With these sentiments we shall, therefore, take our leave for the present.

Soon o'er the hill the yellow-tinctured Moon
Rose through the twilight, and with slanting ray
Gilded the topmost boughs; while all the vale
And all its sloping boundaries lay wrapt
In shade unvaried. Now with lessening orb,
And silver aspect climbing, through the leaves
And thinner spray a tremulous gleam she throws,
Checquering the mossy path beneath our feet.
Round her the stars and planetary balls
With cloudless lustre burn; not ranged in heaven
With mere design a twinkling aid to yield
To the late-wandering stranger, nor ordained
To rule our destinies, as craft averred
And ignorance believed; Thy power, Thy love,
PARENT of ALL, they speak: they tell of worlds
Innumerable, warmed by other suns,
And peopled with innumerable hosts
Of beings,—wondrous all, nor less than man,
Work of thy hand, and children of thy care!

GISBORNE.

The Naturalist's Diary

For DECEMBER 1824.

Dark visaged visitor, who comest here
Clad in thy mournful tunic, to repeat
(While glooms and chilling rains enwrap thy feet)
The solemn requiem of the dying year,
Not undelightful, to my listening ear
Sound thy dull show'rs, as, o'er my woodland seat,
Dismal, and drear, the leafless trees they beat:
Not undelightful, in their wild career,
Is the wild music of thy howling blasts,
Sweeping the groves' long aisle, while sullen Time
Thy stormy mantle o'er his shoulder casts,
And, rocked upon his throne, with chaunt sublime,
Joins the full-pealing dirge, and Winter weaves
Her dark sepulchral wreath of faded leaves.

Literary Gazette.

THE rains and winds and storms of this month may be said to constitute the 'Overture' to the 'Winter-piece' which is usually performed in January and February; when the invigorating cold gives new health and spirits to the young, and snow and ice,

and all the beautiful phenomena of this interesting season, invite their examination, and amply gratify their curiosity: while they, whom Time has honoured with silver locks,—whose heads are covered with the *snow of age*,—seek refuge from the inclemency of the weather in warm and *comfortable* apartments; seated by the blazing hearth, they enjoy the charms of rational society, and while they see in their rising progeny a semblance of their own youthful activity and once buoyant spirits, may contemplate, 'as in a mirror,' their progress through life, in the following beautiful lines:—

Swift down the pathway of declining years,
As on we journey through this vale of tears,
Youth wastes away, and withers like a flow'r,
The lovely phantom of a fleeting hour:
Mid the light sallies of the mantling soul,
The smiles of beauty, and the social bowl,
Inaudible the foot of chilly age
Steals on our joys, and drives us from the stage.
JUVENAL, *by Hodgson.*

On the '*pleasures of winter*,' both in town and country, we have often conversed with our readers. We add the testimony of a fervent admirer of this healthful period of the year. 'Let there be a white cottage standing in a valley, embowered with flowering shrubs, so chosen as to unfold a succession of flowers upon the walls, and clustering round the windows through all the months of spring, summer, and autumn,—beginning, in fact, with May roses and ending with jasmine. Let it, however, not be spring, nor summer, nor autumn,—but WINTER in his sternest shape. This is a most important point in the science of happiness. And I am surprised to see people overlook it, and think it matter of congratulation that winter is going; or, if coming, is not likely to be a severe one. On the contrary, I put up a petition annually for as much snow, hail, frost, or storm, of one kind or other, as the skies can possibly afford us. Surely every body is aware

of the pleasures which attend a winter fire-side: candles at four o'clock, warm hearth-rugs, tea, a fair tea-maker, shutters closed, curtains flowing in ample draperies on the floor, whilst the wind and the rain are raging audibly without,—and seem to call at the doors and windows

> As heav'n and earth they would together mell;
> Yet the least entrance find they none at all;
> Whence sweeter grows our rest secure in massy hall.

'All these are items in the description of a winter evening, which must surely be familiar to every body born in a high latitude. And it is evident that most of these delicacies, like ice-cream, require a very low temperature of the atmosphere to produce them: they are fruits which cannot be ripened without weather stormy or inclement in some way or other. I am not "particular," as people say, whether it be snow, or black frost, or wind so strong, that (as Mr.— says) "you may lean your back against it like a post." I can put up even with rain, provided it rains cats and dogs: but something of the sort I must have. A Canadian winter for me, or a Russian one, where every man is but a co-proprietor with the north wind, in the fee-simple of his own ears. Indeed, so great an epicure am I in this matter, that I cannot relish a winter night fully, if it be much past St. Thomas's Day, and have exhibited any tendency to vernal appearances: no, it must be divided by a thick wall of dark nights from all return of light and sunshine. From the latter weeks of October to Christmas Eve, therefore, is the period during which happiness is in season, which, in my judgment, enters the room with the tea-tray.'—(*Opium-Eater*, p. 137.)

Winter, in the more northern countries of Europe, and indeed in the mountainous districts of England, in severe seasons, affords the highest gratification to the admirers of Nature in her most sublime and awful forms—as well as endless amusement to those

who love and practise out-of-doors exercises at this bright, invigorating season. Mr. COLERIDGE, whose account of *Christmas within Doors*, in Germany, we have quoted in p. 297, gives this interesting description of

Christmas out of Doors at Ratzeburg.

The whole Lake is, at this time, one mass of thick transparent ice—a spotless mirror of nine miles in extent! The lowness of the hills, which rise from the shores of the lake, preclude the awful sublimity of Alpine scenery, yet compensate for the want of it by beauties, of which this very lowness is a necessary condition. Yester-morning I saw the lesser lake completely hidden by mist; but the moment the sun peeped over the hill, the mist broke in the middle, and in a few seconds stood divided, leaving a broad road all across the lake; and between these two walls of mist the sunlight *burnt* upon the ice, forming a road of golden fire, intolerably bright! and the mist-walls themselves partook of the blaze in a multitude of shining colours. This is our second frost. About a month ago, before the thaw came on, there was a storm of wind; during the whole night, such were the thunders and howlings of the breaking ice, that they have left a conviction on my mind, that there are sounds more sublime than any sight *can* be, more absolutely suspending the power of comparison, and more utterly absorbing the mind's self-consciousness in its total attention to the object working upon it. Part of the ice which the vehemence of the wind had shattered, was driven shore-ward and froze anew. On the evening of the next day, at sun-set, the shattered ice thus frozen, appeared of a deep blue, and in shape like an agitated sea; beyond this, the water that ran up between the great islands of ice which had preserved their masses entire and smooth, shone of a yellow green; but all these scattered ice-islands themselves

were of an intensely bright blood colour—they seemed blood and light in union! On some of the largest of these islands, the fishermen stood pulling out their immense nets through the holes made in the ice for this purpose,—and the men, their net-poles, and their huge nets, were a part of the glory; say rather, it appeared as if the rich crimson light had shaped itself into these forms, figures, and attitudes, to make a glorious vision in mockery of earthly things.

The lower lake is now all alive with scaters, and with ladies driven onward by them in their ice cars. Mercury, surely, was the first maker of scates, and the wings at his feet are symbols of the invention. In scating there are three pleasing circumstances: the infinitely subtle particles of ice which the scate cuts up, and which creep and run before the scate like a low mist, and in sun-rise or sun-set become coloured; second, the shadow of the scater in the water, seen through the transparent ice; and, third, the melancholy undulating sound from the scate, not without variety; and when very many are *scating* together, the sounds and the noises give an impulse to the icy trees, and the woods all round the lake *tinkle*.

In the frosty season when the Sun
Was set, and, visible for many a mile
The cottage windows through the twilight blazed,
I heeded not the summons:—happy time
It was indeed for all of us, to me
It was a time of rapture! clear and loud
The village clock tolled six! I wheeled about,
Proud and exulting, like an untired horse
That cared not for its home.—All shod with steel,
We hissed along the polished ice, in games
Confederate, imitative of the chase
And woodland pleasures, the resounding horn,
The pack loud bellowing, and the hunted hare.
So through the darkness and the cold we flew,
And not a voice was idle: with the din
Meanwhile the precipices rang aloud,
The leafless trees and every icy crag
Tinkled like iron, while the distant hills

Into the tumult sent an alien sound
Of melancholy—not unnoticed, while the stars,
Eastward, were sparkling clear, and in the west
The orange sky of evening died away.

Not seldom from the uproar I retired
Into a silent bay, or sportively
Glanced sideway, leaving the tumultuous throng
To cut across the image of a star
That gleamed upon the ice: and oftentimes
When we had given our bodies to the wind,
And all the shadowy banks on either side
Came sweeping through the darkness spinning still
The rapid line of motion, then at once
Have I, reclining back upon my heels,
Stopped short: yet still the solitary cliffs
Wheeled by me even as if the earth had rolled
With visible motion her diurnal round!
Behind me did they stretch in solemn train
Feebler and feebler, and I stood and watched
Till all was tranquil as a summer sea. WORDSWORTH.

As a contrast to this fine *Northern winter-piece*, our readers may take the following account of the hybernal season at *St. Michael's*, whence so much delicious fruit migrates into England about this time. From October to March the thermometer ranges from between 50° and 75° of Fahrenheit. In the months of *December* and January the air is perfumed by the geraniums, myrtles, and roses, then in full flower; the orange and lemon trees blossom in the months of February and March. At this time the deep and glossy green of the old leaves, the light, fresh tints of those just shooting forth, the brilliant yellow of the ripe fruit, and the delicate white and purple of the flower, are finely contrasted with each other, presenting one of the most beautiful sights imaginable, leading us to exclaim with the poet:—

Know'st thou the land which boasts the *lemon's* bloom,
Where the gold *orange* sheds its sweet perfume;
Mid lofty laurels, fragrant myrtles rise,
And balmy breezes breathe from azure skies—
Know'st thou that land? O Love! that there
I might with thee to that bright realm repair!

In the mild seasons of England, when the winter does not commence till January or February, or when old Hyems scarcely frowns on our temperate climate,—as was the case in January 1821, and in December 1822 (which produced *butterflies* as well as flowers), there are many of Flora's gifts to be seen in this month, as carnations, roses, chrysanthemums, marigolds, sweet peas, &c. &c. &c.

On receiving a BRANCH *of* MEZEREON, *which flowered at Woodstock in December* 1809[1].

Odours of Spring, my sense ye charm
With fragrance premature;
And, 'mid these days of dark alarm,
Almost to hope allure.
Methinks with purpose soft ye come
To tell of brighter hours;
Of May's blue skies, abundant bloom,
The sunny gales and showers.

Alas! for me shall May in vain
The powers of life restore?
These eyes that weep and watch in pain
Shall see her charms no more.
No, no, this anguish cannot last!
Beloved friends, adieu!
The bitterness of death were past,
Could I resign but you.

But, oh! in every mortal pang
That rends my soul from life,
That soul, which seems on you to hang
Through each convulsive strife,
Even now, with agonizing grasp
Of terror and regret,
To all in life its love would clasp
Clings close and closer yet.

Yet why, immortal, vital spark!
Thus mortally opprest?
Look up, my soul, through prospects dark,
And bid thy terrors rest;

[1] This was the last production of *Mrs. Henry Tighe*, penned only three months before her death, and under the pressure of an illness plainly prophetic of the worst. Although the circumstances under which this little piece was composed give to it a peculiar interest, yet, assuredly, the reader to whose bosom it conveys no emotion, is incompetent to feel the true charm of poetry.

Forget, forego thy earthly part,
Thine heavenly being trust:—
Ah, vain attempt! my coward heart
Still shuddering clings to dust.

Oh, ye! who soothe the pangs of death
With love's own patient care,
Still, still retain this fleeting breath,
Still pour the fervent prayer.

The *evergreen* trees with their beautiful cones, such as firs and pines, are now particularly observed and valued: the different species of *everlasting* flowers, so pleasing an ornament to our parlours in winter, and indeed during the whole year, also attract our attention[1]. The oak, the beech, and the hornbeam, in part retain their leaves; while other trees are entirely denuded of their beautiful dress.

To a LEAFLESS HAWTHORN.

Hail, rustic tree! for, though December's wind
Has thrown thy verdant mantle to the ground;
Yet Nature, to thy vocal inmates kind,
With berries red thy matron-boughs has crowned.
Thee do I envy: for bright April show'rs
Will bid again thy fresh green leaves expand;
And May, light floating in a cloud of flow'rs,
Will cause thee to re-bloom with magic hand.
But on *my* Spring, when genial dew-drops fell,
Soon did Life's north-wind curdle them with frost;
And, when my summer blossom oped its bell,
In blight and mildew was its beauty lost!
Yet though to me no sunshine here is giv'n,
A day in brightness may be mine in heav'n.

R. MILLHOUSE.

The red-breast is still heard to 'chaunt his cheerful strain,' regardless of the inclemency of the season,—and the sparrow chirps. Towards the end of the month, woodcocks and *snipes* become the prey of the fowler. The jack-snipe (*scolopax gallinula*), which visits us at this period, is a *decided species*, with marked and singular habits. The largest portion of these birds probably never leave the kingdom, but, retiring from our sight near the season of incuba-

[1] See their mode of culture described in T. T. for 1820, p. 313

tion, hide themselves in the great marshy tracts of the country, or the deep reedy districts of the fen lands, where they pass all the summer and autumnal months; the frosts of winter driving them from their retreats, to seek for food in more favoured situations. The manners of birds, like those of the higher orders of creation, are very dissimilar, some living in companies, some in pairs; others pass a large portion of their lives singly, and retired. The causes that influence these habits are very obscure, perhaps unintelligible; but being regularly observed by the individual species, we must conclude them to be an original, though unknown, provision of Nature.—With the exception of our birds of prey, the cock of the wood, and a few others, there is a general tendency towards association; but the jack-snipe lives the half of his life a solitary, unsocial bird two of them never, or very rarely, being found together. Driven by winter from his reedy covert, he declines all intercourse with his race, and, seeking some lonely, warm spring by the side of a hill, or in a retired valley, he lives the winter months a solitary recluse. Having fixed on his station, he very seldom abandons it long; roused from it, and even fired upon five times in the day, no sense of danger seems to alarm him, and, when the morning returns, we find the little jud-cock at his spring again: the indifference with which he endures this daily persecution is amazing, and he will thus afford amusement or vexation to the young sportsman during the whole Christmas vacation, without being scared from his haunts. He leaves us in the inland counties about the end of March, and we know very little of his habits after that period.

The 'leafy honours' of the vegetable tribe are now strewed in the dust, and returned to their parent Earth,—yet some attractions are still left as a promise of future beauty;—the scarlet berries of the common holly, and the *pyracanthus*, with its bunches

of fiery berries on its dark green thorny sprays, solicit our attention—while numerous tribes of *mosses* will afford sufficient amusement and occupation for the inquiring *botanist*,—and the poet's lyre, vibrating with melancholy but soothing harmony, will record the fall of

The LAST LEAF.

Thou last pale relic from yon widowed tree,
Hovering awhile in air, as if to leave
Thy native sprig reluctant, how I grieve,
And heave the sigh of kindred sympathy,
That thou art fall'n! for I too whilom played
Upon the topmast bough of youth's gay spring;
Have sported blithe on summer's golden wing,
And now I see my fleeting autumn fade.
Yet, 'sere and yellow leaf,' though thou and I
Thus far resemble, and this frame, like thee,
In the cold silent ground be doomed to lie,
Thou never more will climb thy parent tree;
But I, through faith in my Redeemer, trust
That I shall rise again, e'en from the dust.

In our volume for 1821 (p. 241), we have said that the embryo of a future tree is discoverable in the seed of the ash. The seed of the sycamore (*acer pseudo-platanus*) affords a pleasing instance of the care that Nature takes for the preservation of her infant germs: in the seed of this plant taken in the months of December or January (after exposure to the rains of autumn and frost of our earlier winter months), and soaked in warm water that it may be divested of its coating, we shall find the radicle and long radicle leaves of the future plant folded up in a most extraordinary manner, with the minute leaves that are to succeed them folded in their bosom: these radicle leaves are beautifully green, a circumstance not to be expected, as all light (the parent of colour in plants) is perfectly excluded by the three coatings and a woolly wrapper that invest them. The bounty and wisdom of Providence, for the well-being and subsistence of creation through

all the stages of existence, wonderful as they are, in nothing is so remarkably manifested as in the intelligence displayed, and the provision appointed, for the young of organized and inanimate nature. The egg of a bird or insect, or the seed of a plant, should alone humble to the dust the arrogance of man.

What prodigies can power divine perform
More grand than it produces year by year,
And all in sight of inattentive man?
Familiar with the effect we slight the cause;
And in the constancy of Nature's course,
The regular return of genial months,
And renovation of a faded world,
See nought to wonder at. Should GOD again,
As once in Gibeon, interrupt the race
Of the undeviating and punctual Sun,
How would the world admire! but speaks it less
An agency divine, to make him know
His moment when to sink and when to rise,
Age after age, than to arrest his course?
All we behold is miracle; but seen
So duly, all is miracle in vain.
Where now the vital energy that moved,
While summer was, the pure and subtle lymph
Through the imperceptible meandering veins
Of leaf and flow'r? It sleeps; and th' icy touch
Of unprolific winter has impressed
A cold stagnation on the intestine tide.
But let the months go round, a few short months,
And all shall be restored. COWPER.

Arrived at the close of our 'Annual Tour through Creation,' we cannot take leave of our friends for a time, particularly our youthful readers, without attempting to impress upon their minds, that this solemn period of the year is peculiarly the Season of *Religious Hope*. Amid vicissitude and decay, amid apparent ruin and destruction, we behold the seeds of life and renovation; for He who pervades and dwells with all things, the unchangeable and immortal Spirit has so ordained the course of organized nature, that not only is life the precursor of death, but the latter is essential to the renewal of existence, a chain and

catenation, a cycle, as it were, of vitality, which tells us, in the strongest language of analogy, that if such seem the destiny of irrational nature, if thus she die to live again, how assured should be the hope of intellectual being.

To him who views the temporary desolation of the year with no consolatory thought; who sees not, in the seeming ruin which surrounds him, any hope or emblem of a better world; who hears not the accents of *dying nature* responding to the voice of revelation, and telling of a Spring beyond the grave; to him who is insensible to reliances such as these, to hopes which can whisper peace, and soothe the evils of mortality, how stale, flat, and unprofitable, must appear all the uses of this feverish existence! He may be told in the language of the poet, in the language of faith and heartfelt consolation,—

To you the beauties of the autumnal year
Make mournful emblems, and you think of man
Doomed to the grave's long winter, spirit-broke,
Bending beneath the burthen of his years,
Sense-dulled and fretful, full of aches and pains,
Yet clinging still to life. To me they show
The calm decay of nature, when the mind
Retains its strength, and in the languid eye
Religion's holy hopes kindle a joy
That makes old age look lovely. All to you
Is dark and cheerless; you in this fair world
See some destroying principle abroad,
Air, earth, and water full of living things
Each on the other preying; and the ways
Of man, a strange perplexing labyrinth,
Where crimes and miseries, each producing each,
Render life loathsome, and destroy the hope
That should in death bring comfort. Oh, my friend,
That thy faith were as mine! that thou could'st see
Death still producing life, and evil still
Working its own destruction; could'st behold
The strifes and tumults of this troubled world
With the strong eye that sees the promised day
Dawn through this night of tempest! all things then
Would minister to joy; then should thine heart
Be healed and harmonized, and thou should'st feel
God, always, every where, and all in all.

SOUTHEY.

Addenda.

Page 107. *April* 19.—SAINT ALPHEGE.—A native of England, Alphege was first Abbot of Bath, then Bishop of Winchester in the year 984, and twelve years afterwards, Archbishop of Canterbury. After seven months' miserable imprisonment by the Danes, the good Archbishop was stoned to death at Greenwich.

April 23.—SAINT GEORGE.—Saint George is the patron Saint of England; for which the following reason is assigned: When Robert Duke of Normandy, the son of William the Conqueror, was fighting against the Turks, and laying siege to the famous city of Antioch, which was expected to be relieved by the Saracens, St. George appeared with an innumerable army coming down from the hills clad all in white, with a red cross on his banner, to reinforce the Christians; which so terrified the infidels, that they fled, and left the Christians in possession of the town.—See T. T. for 1821, p. 107. The King's birth-day is kept on this day, being his *name-day*, in imitation of the custom in catholic countries.

Page 108. *April* 25.—SAINT MARK.—St. Mark's Gospel was written in the year 63. The order of knights of St. Mark at Venice, under the protection of this evangelist, was instituted in the year 737, the reigning doge being always grand master: their motto was, '*Pax tibi, Marce, Evangelista Meus.*'

The custom of sitting and watching in the church porch on St. Mark's eve, still exists in some parts of the north of England. The 'witching time of night' is from eleven till one; and the third year the watcher supposes that he sees the ghosts of those who are to die the next year pass by into the church.—For some remarks on the *belief in apparitions*, see our last volume, pp. 91-93.

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